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THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN
SERIALS DIVISION

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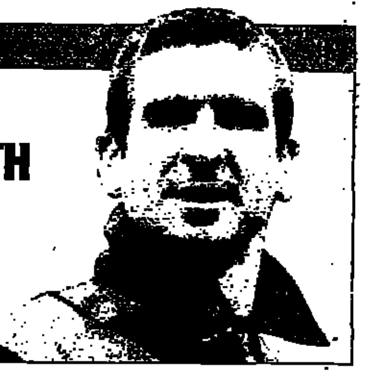


TOMORROW
THE MAN AND THE MYTH
Profile of Eric Cantona
MAGAZINE

Israel mourns for its children shot dead by Jordanian on the anniversary of Dunblane

Hill of Peace massacre of seven girls

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARAB-ISRAELI tensions rose to danger point last night after a uniformed Jordanian soldier shot dead seven Jewish schoolgirls and Israeli ministers blamed King Hussein for provoking the attack with his recent criticism of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

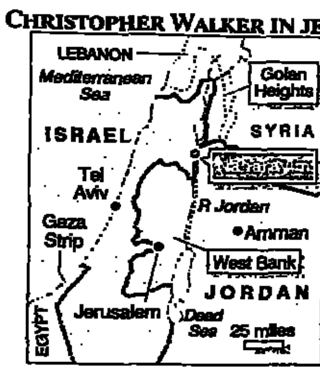
Five of the girls, all aged 12 and 13, died in a Jordanian hospital. Their bodies were taken to Israel for funerals which are expected to prompt an outpouring of national grief.

The girls had been on a school outing to Naharayim, a beauty spot in the spectacular Jordan Valley named the Hill of Peace because it is part of land handed back to Jordan when the 1994 peace treaty ended 46 years of war.

The soldier opened fire as the backs of the girls were turned towards his watchtower. One 14-year-old survivor, Hila Ivri, told of the moment they were sprayed with automatic fire: "The girls screamed and cried and ran beneath bushes to hide. Many girls were hurt and bloody. I was hit in the leg."

The shock and anger of Israelis at the attack in which six other girls were wounded, was intensified by reports that the assailant, a 26-year old army driver, was able to fire a full clip of ammunition before being overpowered by armed colleagues standing close by.

Oxford-educated Crown Prince Hassan, who visited the scene and spoke to one of the survivors admitted that there had been "a breakdown of management" among the soldiers. He spoke movingly of his personal "shame and anguish" and pledged a full investigation in which "justice would be served." The Prince said that it was "a black day in the history of our country."



Despite the attempts of world statesmen, including President Clinton, to calm emotions gut reaction among many Israelis was to question the validity of the peace treaty. "Peace is not worth anything if these kinds of things happen", said Anna Ostrovsky, 13, one of the pupils at the orthodox Jewish school in the town of Beit Shemesh who was awaiting news of the dead. "I am very afraid."

At the school there were scenes reminiscent of the Dunblane massacre as chain-smoking Israeli parents clustered around the telephone, frantic for assurance that their daughters were not among the dead and wounded.

Etty Vahalani, one distraught mother, shouted into a cellular phone: "Ronit, it's mum. How are you? Talk to me. I am waiting for you."

The psychological effect of the massacre — by a man described by one survivor as "a bad guy with big eyes" — was much more explosive because it followed 48 hours after the publication of an outspoken letter from King Hussein to Mr Netanyahu saying that his policies were driving the region towards "an abyss of bloodshed and disaster".

The King's warning about possible violence to be sparked by a massive new settlement at Har Homa in occupied east Jerusalem was cited as a possible cause by Israeli Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. He told Army radio: "Perhaps the conclusion is that the King must hold his tongue so that a soldier does not take his words to mean more than he intended."

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Amman, which received a flood of condolence calls from ordinary Jordanians, said that there must be a connection to the recent bitter public attacks on the attitudes and hardline policies of Mr Netanyahu. Last Sunday an outraged King Hussein slammed down the phone on the Israeli leader.

Last night before arriving back in Amman from Spain en route to a now postponed summit in Washington, Hussein defended himself. "It was fully in my responsibility to warn that we have come too far," the King told reporters. In a communique he spoke of his feelings of "shock, pain and anger" at the murders which many diplomats believe have pushed the Middle East peace process close to total collapse.

The King said that he never thought that his letter sent to Mr Netanyahu would be taken that way. He added that he felt that the peace for which he had worked for his whole life was now facing "a difficult moment."

The 61-year old monarch, whose state of health is giving concern to officials in the current period of high Middle East tension said in an emotional condolence telephone call to Israel's President Weizman "that he considered those treacherous bullets to have been directed against him and his sons and daughters in his own home".

Hussein warning, page 15
Leading article, page 21

Israeli schoolgirls comfort each other as they wait for news of their friends, gunned down by a Jordanian soldier on the Hill of Peace

Scotland pays its tribute by candlelight

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER
GILLIAN BOWDITCH
AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE tone was low key, the ceremonies kept to a minimum. Throughout Dunblane and over all of Scotland yesterday, the anniversary of the massacre on March 13 last year was marked by small but poignant tributes to the 16 children and their teacher who died at the hands of the gunman Thomas Hamilton.

The simplest gesture was the most moving: across the country, from the Outer Hebrides to the Borders, candles were lit at precisely 7pm. They flickered from the windows of houses, in church naves, school classrooms, and even office canteens. Many of them were lit by children. In Inverness Cathedral, a single candle burned. In isolated crofts on Lewis and Harris, they could be seen from across dark moorland.

In Dunblane there was special meaning in the candle lit by Alison Curry, 28, and her son Ryan Liddell, 6, one of the children injured that morning when Hamilton walked into the gymnasium at Dunblane Primary School and opened fire with his deadly arsenal of handguns.

"I think all of the parents of the survivors feel guilty when we think how we've still got our kids while other families haven't," Mrs Curry said. "Dunblane is so small, you often bump into one of the bereaved parents in the supermarket. It's so hard to know what to say. . . . the candle is to show that we still remember and probably always will."

At the school, where, a year before, agonised parents had waited to hear whether their children were alive or dead, the accent was on normality. Ron Taylor, the headmaster, in consultation with parents, had decided that the doors should open, but 90 minutes later than usual, to allow parents to pay their own tributes.

Police were on guard outside as the parents arrived in small groups, some with wreaths, others carrying single red roses to lay on the open site where the gymnasium, now razed to the ground, had stood. They were met by Mr Taylor, who had been one of the first on the scene, who coped with the immediate aftermath of the carnage, and who, with his staff, has held the school together since.

"Our school will recover," he said in a television interview. He was looking to the future with optimism, but admitted that he was no closer to understanding the depth of evil which had torn so many lives apart a year ago.

"It hardly seems like a year to us at the school," he added. "The events of that day, clearly the worst of our lives, are still with us. The images are very vivid. I have a very vivid visual memory. The trauma and the emotion have not left us."

As for memories of Thomas Hamilton himself, they were kept firmly in the background. "Recently, I have thought less about evil," said Mr Taylor. "We have no emotional energy left to think about him or give him the time of day. I cannot understand any better today than I did then the depth of evil and the calculated way he went about the events of that day."

When the school opened for normal classes at 10.30 pupils trickled through the gate. But

Continued on page 2, col 4

Billie-Jo arrest

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins was last night re-arrested by detectives investigating her murder. Sion Jenkins, 39, was detained in custody overnight at Hastings police station, east Sussex. Billie-Jo, 13, was killed in the garden of the family home.

Kohl caves in

Jubilant miners whistled and sounded hooters to celebrate a climbdown by Helmut Kohl who, after a week of tough street protests, has agreed to stop mass lay-offs in the coal industry for the next seven years.........Page 12

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Anti-euro cash offer lures MPs

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO former Cabinet ministers joined a stampede of Tory MPs yesterday for donations from a millionaire businessman who has pledged financial support to candidates opposed to a single currency.

John Redwood, who challenged John Major for the Tory leadership, Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned as Paymaster General to oppose the euro, were among the first in the queue yesterday. Two unnamed serving ministers are also reputed to have expressed an interest along with Iain Duncan-Smith, the MP for Chingford and a leading Euro-sceptic.

Within 24 hours of the announcement of the £500,000 fighting fund being set up by Paul Sykes, 53, one of Britain's 100 richest men, requests had been received from 28 Conservative associations. They are still pouring in. Mr Sykes hopes to get up to 150 candidates to support the cause.

The revelation comes as a survey by *The Times*, of the

Continued on page 2, col 1

Labour plans to lift Armed Forces bar on homosexuals

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership has made a decisive shift towards lifting the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces in spite of opposition from the service chiefs.

In an interview in *The Pink Paper*, a journal for homosexuals, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, says: "We believe that servicemen and women should not be discharged on the basis that they are lesbian or gay."

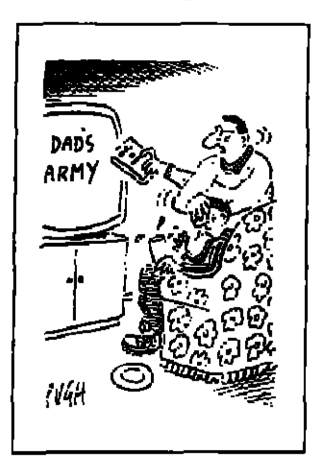
An incoming Labour government will consult service chiefs on how to implement the change. "But the ban is unfair and it will go," he says.

The statement by Mr Straw has gone further than the pronouncements from David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary. Sources close to Dr Clark have made clear that Labour regards the ban as unfair and they would work towards a swift abolition.

Mr Straw's commitment comes on the day that the High Court accepted that the ban might be in breach of European Union law. The court agreed that Terry Perkins, who was dismissed from his post as a Navy medical assistant because of his sexuality, could challenge the ruling at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. If Mr Perkins, 28, wins his case the British taxpayer could face a multi-million pound compensation bill.

A further 30 cases are in the pipeline and more could follow. Up to 2,000 men and women have been discharged from the Armed Forces because of their sexuality in the last 20 years.

A Shadow Cabinet source said last night that Labour MPs would be given a free vote on the issue when the right legislative opportunity arose in the lifetime of a first Labour government. However, it would not be in the first year of a Tony Blair administration.



☐ In the three years since the Clinton Administration adopted its "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the Pentagon has discharged more homosexuals from the American military than before it came into effect (Tom Rhodes writes).

At best the policy has been deemed a shaky compromise to please both the liberal tendencies of President Clinton and the more conservative views of the Pentagon and his opponents in Congress.

Mr Clinton had campaigned for office on the back of a controversial crusade to end the ban on homosexuals in the armed services. Under the terms of the don't ask, don't tell provisions, proven homosexual conduct still remains a ground for dismissal. But the policy includes guidelines to commanders on when to initiate inquiries.

Court to rule, page 9

Britons flee Albania in joint rescue

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DIPLOMATIC sources said last night that 400 Westerners — 50 said to be British — have been evacuated from Albania in a joint operation between the British, American and Italian embassies.

They were taken from Tirana to the rebel-held port of Durres by minibus, and then to an Italian warship by helicopter, Italian sources said.

An RAF and Royal Navy rescue operation was on stand-by. Two destroyers, *HMS Exeter* and *HMS Birmingham*, on patrol in the Mediterranean, were ordered to steam closer to the Albanian coast, and three RAF Hercules transport aircraft took off from Lyneham in Wiltshire to be ready for a rescue.

The Americans landed military helicopters in Tirana for an operation that "could take days", said a US official.

A British plan to use Tirana airport was abandoned as gunfire increased around the runways and all commercial flights were cancelled.

Berisha clings on, page 17
Photograph, page 24

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The easy way to reach Hell: needled under the eye of the camel

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

If a camel could smile, it would smile like Reigate's Sir George Gardiner (Referendum Party — RP? Or RIP?) A dyspeptic countenance peeped round the generous bottom of the Chancellor at Treasury Questions yesterday. Whose were those fox-bat eyes, that cameloid grin in a floral tie? It was acid indigestion made flesh: Sir George.

Positioned behind the Government front bench (thus within camera-frame) Gardiner was (in media terms) "doughnutting". For dunking in your coffee, the dry Sir George would not appeal to every taste. They could rename it "rusking".

Throughout Treasury Questions, the Prince of Eurosceptic Darkness remained silent, a thin smile playing on his leathery lips. It was evident as David Atkinson (Con, Bournemouth E) rose with a question about the single currency.

Every Parliament needs one techno-nerd, to represent the techno-nerds in the general population. Atkinson is that man. In the eighties, he was leading adjournment debates on space travel. Now he has switched to hitch-hiking on the internet.

So why a Question on monetary union? What troubled him? Prospects for a single currency in 1999? No, Mr Atkinson was worried about prospects for computer systems in 1999. Were single currency computers "millennium-compliant"?

Kenneth Clarke, whose more urgent concern is whether Tory Government is millennium-compliant, made a none-too-convincing stab at taking Mr Atkinson's inquiry seriously. This, he implied, was one of many questions about monetary union in 1999, not least whether it would happen.

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N), an Opposition mosquito, bit. Would Mr Clarke include Sir George in EU discussions?

As Mr Clarke parried, I watched the terror on the face of the Financial Secretary Michael Jack, who had been sitting beside the space that the Chancellor had left empty by rising.

At the far end of the bench, the arrival of the Chief Whip — no mean bottom — had forced everyone to shuffle one place to their left, pushing Mr Jack on to Mr Clarke's space.

Mr Jack was afraid that when Mr Clarke sat, it would be on him. Sadly this did not happen. We could not test the hypothesis that Mr Clarke would not notice if he sat on someone.

Next, the Prime Minister arrived. Eurosceptic Norman Lamont had arrived, too. So had Hugh Dykes (C, Harrow E), a swivel-eyed happy-clappy Europhile, Jacques Santer's vicar on Earth. Europhobe Sir George Gardiner stayed.

Both Lamont and Gardiner began leaping up to catch the Speaker's eye and question the Premier. So did Mr Dykes. Three of John Major's favourite Tories!

In *No Exit*, Jean-Paul Sartre suggests, as a metaphor for Hades, a room containing a small number of people calculated to annoy each other, and no escape — ever.

For Mr Major yesterday, the Tory benches at PM's Questions were a sort of Sartrean Hell.

Still, when Sir George complained (to cries of "what about Goldsmith?") that too much was spent promoting the EU, Major counter-attacked crisply. He understood, he said, there was "quite a lot of money available to both sides" of this argument.

As I left, the House Leader Tony Newton was promising the "Birds (Registration Charges) Bill — remaining stages".

Have you noticed how the Government always slips its most controversial proposals into routine business? What can this Bill mean? Do birds now have to register as birds — "*sparrow: male*"? Or will Tory ministers have to hand in their little black books to the Chief Whip?

Tories still have plenty to offer, says Major

By Philip Webster, political editor

JOHN MAJOR will put the Conservative Party on election alert tomorrow when he tells constituency workers that the Government has plenty of radical proposals for a fifth successive term.

Days before he calls the general election for May 1, the Prime Minister will tell the Conservative Central Council that three big announcements in the last eight days — a shake-up of pensions, privatisation of social services and help for nursing home fees — are proof the Government has not lost its cutting edge or run out of steam.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, will all make speeches in Bath that are expected to be blatantly electioneering in tone. Although Mr Major and other ministers declined to provide any hints yesterday, party sources expect him to announce the election on Tuesday or Thursday of next week, with parliamentary business being wound up shortly afterwards.

Much of today's session in Bath, attended by the party's senior constituency officials, will be held in private and the leadership is braced for angry criticism of ministers and MPs for the recent gaffes that have stifled attempts at recovery. The meeting takes place against the background of a new poll indicating that the gap with Labour is widening. Opinion Research Business puts Labour support at 53 per cent, up two points from its last poll two months ago.

A worrying finding for strategists is the suggestion that the Conservative campaign so far has misfired. Only 3 per cent said it had increased their support for the party, compared to 15 per cent for Labour. Nearly one in five respondents said the Tory campaign had turned them against the party.

In a further sign of pre-election nerves, it emerged last night that the Tory communications director had written to all Conservative MPs warning them about damaging newspaper surveys. Charles Lewington's leaked letter said that three papers were conducting surveys of MPs and constituency chairmen "in the hope of producing unhelpful stories about the state of party morale". He asks for their support, in either ignoring the calls or "answering the questions helpfully".

There were indications at Westminster yesterday that the business managers hope to have the Commons up before Easter, although the formal dissolution will come in April. One casualty could be Michael Howard's crime Bill with its plan to impose minimum sentences for persistent burglars and drug traffickers. Mr Howard wants to reverse a Lords defeat which he believes weakened the measure. After the election is called, business by convention only goes through by agreement between both front benches. Mr Howard will be certain to turn Labour's opposition into an election issue if the Bill falls.

After Major, page 19
Matthew Parris and Philip Howard, page 20

Tory MPs lured

Continued from page 1

executive of the 1922 committee of Tory MPs, shows that more than half will use their personal manifestos to defy the Cabinet's wait-and-see policy on the single currency.

The findings come only weeks after Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, appealed in vain at a meeting of the committee for backbenchers not to defy government policy.

John Townend, the MP for Bridlington and a member of the executive, said last night: "I understand my association will be entitled to up to £7,500 from Mr Sykes. We will be delighted to accept. I do not believe in looking a gift-horse in the mouth."

Mr Heathcoat-Amory, the MP for Wells, said: "It is perfectly in order for Mr Sykes to put his money behind his political beliefs. I will discuss it with my constituency chairman but I am sure we will accept his generous offer."

The move by Mr Sykes, who owns 40 per cent of the Meadowhall shopping centre near Sheffield, has upset the Tory high command. But no Tory officials dared publicly to criticise Mr Sykes, a self-made millionaire, who is the son of a Yorkshire miner. Last year he gave more than £200,000 to Conservative Central Office. He has given more than £1 million in the last 20 years.

Mr Sykes, whose political hero is Baroness Thatcher, was delighted by the response to his offer. "There is £500,000 in the bank. But I am prepared to write an open cheque." He added: "This will help the Tories, not hinder them.

His intervention comes after the Prime Minister's recent plea at the Welsh Tory Party conference for candidates to back the Cabinet's policy on the euro.

MIKE GRIMES

Joan Bedford, sister of the murdered Dunblane teacher Gwen Mayor, pays tribute at a school in Manchester yesterday

Silent prayers in sombre Dunblane

Continued from page 1

90 children stayed away, kept at home by their parents.

The world's media, which had besieged the town a year ago, respected the specific request of the parents and stayed away.

The heightened mood prompted by the anniversary led to mass hysteria in the town of Alloa, ten miles from Dunblane, after a rumour began circulating about a "copycat Dunblane." The rumour involved unfounded claims that a man had rung the local council threatening to "do another Dunblane." Parents turned up in tears at Park Primary school, Alloa, which is ten miles from Dunblane, demanding to be allowed to take their children home.

Elsewhere in Scotland tributes were paid in churches, primary school, homes and offices. Many of the candles were lit by children. Church services of rememberence were held in Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, Edinburgh and Glasgow. In Inverness Cathedral a single candle was lit. There was no service in Dunblane Cathedral but a steady trickle of visitors braved the rain and wind to offer silent prayers.

In a sombre House of Commons, the Prime Minister and Labour Leader Tony Blair put aside their political differences as they did a year ago when visiting Dunblane to remember the dead. "We remember the little ones that died, we grieve with their parents and their friends and they will not be lost in the memory of this nation," Mr Blair said.

He told the Prime Minister: "Whatever our differences are, we are united again this time in sorrow and commemoration of those that died."

Mr Major said the Opposition Leader had spoken for everyone in the Commons and for millions beyond it.

Last night the Prime Minister and Mrs Major lit a candle in the window of 10 Downing Street to mark the anniversary.

Dorrell's cost-cutting drive will save NHS £340m

By Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

A LEANER, fitter NHS with fewer managers and less red tape was announced by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yesterday.

A drive to reduce management costs launched a year ago will have saved £340 million by next March, Mr Dorrell said.

In an effort to pre-empt criticism from Labour on the cost of running the NHS market, Mr Dorrell declared that NHS management costs will have fallen by £186 million, or 10 per cent in real terms, in the two years to the end of 1997-98.

In addition, nearly £100 million would be saved by abolishing regional health authorities from April 1, and £50 million saved by March next year from streamlining the Department of Health.

Mr Dorrell said he had set a demanding cash reduction target of 5 per cent in 1996-97 for health authorities' costs and NHS trust management costs. In 1997-98 further cost reductions from health authorities and trusts were expected to match the overall NHS efficiency target of 2.7 per cent.

NHS management costs, as defined by the Audit Commission, cover the salaries of managers, including clinical managers, and staff in areas such as finance, contracting and personnel.

Labour countered by releasing figures showing that £2.5 billion a year was being spent on the "NHS bureaucrats' pay bill". Salary costs of managers and administrative staff had doubled since 1989-90 when they stood at £1.2 billion, the party said. In current prices this meant an extra £894 million was being spent on management salaries.

☐ Discriminating against the elderly is an appropriate way of rationing scarce NHS resources, a leading health economist has said.

Older people should be prepared to accept the inevitablity of death and recognise that they have had a "good innings" and the young have a greater right to medical care, Alan Williams of the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York said.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Professor Williams, 69, said that too much emphasis is placed on high-tech treatments to save life when what the elderly really need are unglamorous measures to improve mobility and their capacity to look after themselves.

"This attempt to wring the last drop of medical benefit out of the system, no matter what the human and material costs, is not the hallmark of a humane society. In each of our lives there has to come a time when we accept ... that a reasonable limit has to be set on the demands we can properly make on our fellow citizens in order to keep us going a bit longer," he said.

Professor Williams says that benefits to young people should not take absolute priority over benefits to old people but they should be given more weight.

Soldier is injured in IRA rocket attack

By Audrey Magee

A SOLDIER was being treated in a Belfast hospital yesterday after being injured in a suspected IRA attack on a security force patrol in the north of the city.

The 22-year-old, a member of the 2nd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, was injured in the arm when a homemade rocket was fired at his armour-plated Land-Rover. The force of the blast blew the armour off the side of the vehicle.

The device was fired at the joint Army and police patrol as it passed down Etna Drive in the Ardoyne area. The rocket — containing 1½lb of Semtex — is believed to have been launched by IRA terrorists hiding in a house or alleyway at the side of the road. The entire area was sealed off yesterday and a number of people were arrested.

The attack comes a month after the murder of Lance Bombadier Stephen Restorick.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tipsters back Hume to succeed Robinson

John Hume yesterday played down suggestions that he might succeed Mary Robinson as the Irish President. The leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party is bookies' favourite to succeed Mrs Robinson, who has announced that she will not seek a second term.

Mr Hume is eligible to stand despite being a British MP and a resident of Northern Ireland. He told Irish radio that he had not been consulted about the presidency. "I am concentrating on the job I am in public life to do, which is to do everything in my power, together with my colleagues, to bring about lasting peace and lasting stability."

Albert Reynolds, the former Irish Prime Minister, and the poet Seamus Heaney were also being tipped for the presidency. Mrs Robinson is seeking the job of UN Commissioner for Human Rights. According to Dublin sources, Mrs Robinson yesterday asked John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, to raise the matter of her candidacy with President Clinton when he visits the White House on Monday. She requires the backing of the five permanent members of the UN Council.

Profiteering review

The Government is to review laws which allowed the Official Solicitor to sell film rights to archive material on mass-murderer Fred West. The review, announced yesterday by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, follows the decision of the Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, which provoked public outrage and complaints from the West family. Lord Mackay has appointed Professor Gareth Jones, QC, to examine the case for preventing families profiteering from the crimes of relatives.

Go-ahead for Channel 5

Channel 5 has won the go-ahead to begin broadcasting on March 30 after the Independent Television Commission said it was satisfied that the station's retuning programme was on target. The commission said it was confident that at least 90 per cent of homes that could suffer interference from the Channel 5 signal had been retuned or had had interference eliminated from their equipment. Once programmes start the station is obliged to retune any televisions suffering interference for a further three months.

Jockey appears in court

Walter Swinburn, the jockey, appeared in court in Newmarket yesterday charged with assault and smashing a glass door at an Italian restaurant. Swinburn, 35, had the case against him adjourned for a fortnight by magistrates. The triple Derby winner was arrested after an incident at the Il Piccolo Mondo restaurant in Newmarket in January. Swinburn, who runs a stud with his parents at Wickhambrook, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, was at the restaurant only days after ending a £100,000 charity walk.

Teachers get 3% rise

Gillian Shephard confirmed that teachers are to get a 3.3 per cent pay rise this year as recommended by their pay review body. The Education Secretary said in a written Commons reply that teachers will receive 2 per cent from April 1 with the remaining 1.7 per cent from December 1. The award was being made in two stages to accommodate costs within spending plans and because staging reflected the Government's view that settlements should be lower this year, Mrs Shephard said.

Rape law reform plan

Michael Howard will today announce plans to restrict the right of those on trial for rape to cross-question their alleged victims in court. The Home Secretary's move follows the ordeal of a woman who was cross-examined for six days by her attacker. Judges would be given the power to restrict the right of alleged rapists to conduct their own defence. They would be given discretion to order defendants in rape cases to be represented by barristers. The Government believes there is widespread support for the move.

Rail sale fees criticised

The £40 million cost of hiring City firms to advise on the sale of train passenger franchises during the privatisation of British Rail was criticised yesterday by the all party Public Accounts Committee. The watchdog said it was concerned that they had been appointed "without competition" and that no upper limit had been set for the cost of fees for the first franchises. Fees to the the legal advisers, Linklaters & Paines, totalled £13 million, and those to the financial advisers, HSBC Samuel Montagu, £5.9 million.

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'We eight have been portrayed as having identical opinions. That is absolute rubbish'

We're not ashamed of our views, say TV dinner guests

By Adrian Lee and Carol Midgley

GUESTS at a dinner-party who appeared in a Channel 4 documentary portraying them as right-wing bigots defended their views yesterday and said they were astonished at the media rumpus.

Speaking at a Suffolk pub, George Coleman, Bill Vaudrey and Henry Erskine-Hill said they were not ashamed of the opinions they had expressed on blacks, homosexuality and unemployment because "the majority of people in this country think the same way".

Mr Erskine-Hill, 44, an old Etonian petrol station manager, denied that he was a racist. He had "one or two Asian friends", he said, and "found them delightful", but had had "one or two experiences with the black community which have not always run smoothly".

Bridget Wells-Furby and her husband Richard appeared to be having more regrets. "I am not extreme", protested Mrs Wells-Furby, who runs a restaurant. "I would describe myself as an old-fashioned Whig."

Eight friends agreed to be filmed for *The Dinner Party* — to be screened on March 24. Some are quoted as saying that "queers" should not be allowed in the Army and that Africans are always taking handouts.

At The Railway in Framlingham yesterday, it emerged that *The Dinner Party*, filmed by Paul Watson, was in fact two dinner parties, lasting four hours each. The guests said that they had been asked to wear the same clothes and eat the same food and wine on each occasion — paid for by Channel 4. The film is due to be screened on March 24.

They said that they were given topics of discussion, including Europe, law and order, education, and John Major. Watson intervened if they strayed from political issues, they said.

Suffolk village where dinners took place

"He kept coming in and saying, 'I've not heard enough about the dangers of new Labour,'" said Mr Vaudrey, 41, an unemployed businessman who answered a newspaper advertisement to appear in the programme and drew up the guest list. He and his wife, Judy, 39, hosted the dinner party at the farmhouse where her father, Tony, lives. Mrs Vaudrey, a professional cook, prepared the food.

George Coleman, 50, the landlord of The Railway, said: "We do feel a bit set up, but we will watch the film. I don't like being called intellectually impoverished as we were described in the papers. We are deep thinkers."

The guests were paid £100 each to appear and Channel Four met the cost of all the food and drink. But money was not a motivation. "Lord, no — we did it for the experience," said Mr Vaudrey. The eight had known each other socially for several years but had not previously dined together. The guest list was designed to represent the man in the street.

He said all eight had been "overwhelmed" by the fuss over their remarks. "The sad fact is that we live in a rather isolated corner of Suffolk. We live rather mundane lives."

Bill Vaudrey, George Coleman and Henry Erskine-Hill at The Railway pub in Framlingham yesterday. They said that they had been "set up"

Mr Erskine-Hill believed that the group "rightly or wrongly spoke for a lot of people" but fears that "we could be made buffoons of" when the tape was edited to the 53 minutes to be broadcast.

"I think they were looking for us to trip ourselves up," Mr Erskine-Hill said. He had had the impression that the programme-makers wanted the guests to get drunk. The three men did not think they had drunk to excess as most of the guests had to get up early in the morning.

Despite their fears, the three friends said yesterday morning that they had no plans to try to stop the programme. Accompanied by their lawyer, Mr Erskine-Hill said: "I think we were slightly naive in our expectations.", Mr Coleman, said: "We are treating this as trivia as it was supposed to be. I hope when the film comes out we will be seen in a sympathetic light but I do feel we have been stitched up. I feel they [Channel 4] took advantage of the situation".

He was particularly angered by remarks by Mr Watson that the group showed a "poverty of intellect". Mr Erskine-Hill and Mr Vaudley rejected suggestions by Mr Watson that they were "dyed-in-the-wool" Tories.

"I have never voted Conservative," said Mr Erskine-Hill. "I usually vote down the middle. Last time I voted for the Natural Law Party."

Mr Coleman did confess to thinking John Major "the best thing since sliced bread" and to being a life-long Conservative but Mr Vaudrey said: "I have voted Conservative in the past but I will be voting for the Referendum Party."

All three denied that they disliked homosexuals. They were, Mr Coleman, said, "as much a part of society as serial murderers".

Mrs Wells-Furby, 35, who arrived at the pub later, said: "I am not a racist, I am not a beggar-basher, I am not homophobic. I did not say anything that I do not believe in but I am worried it will be taken out of context."

Mrs Wells Furby, who holds a PhD in medieval history and has small children, said she was a Conservative voter although not impressed by the current Government. She issued a statement on behalf of her husband Richard, 32, an insurance broker at Lloyds. He said: "I am not a homophobic, I am not racist. Paul Watson was doing his job."

Mrs Wells Furby said: "We have been portrayed as eight guests with identical views. That is absolute rubbish."

Another guest, Jon Goddard, a musician who composed the music for the documentary, was anxious not to be portrayed as a rightwinger.

He described himself as a "floating, doubting and typically torn" voter who was disappointed after 18 years of Tory rule. He voted Conservative at the last election but regretted it six months later.

Regrets linger long after documentary makers have cried 'Cut'

By Carol Midgley

DOCUMENTARY history is littered with volunteers who have lived to regret revealing their lives to a fly-on-the-wall camera. Members of the public, seduced by the idea of fame, often complain later that they have been misrepresented and "stitched up".

Noeline Baker, a Sydney housewife who achieved notoriety in the BBC documentary *Sylvania Waters*, said that she was driven to the verge of suicide by the finished product. She complained that she had been portrayed as a materialistic matriarch, and that her partner, Laurie Donaher, and their children were made to appear loud-mouthed bigots. The maker of that documentary, Paul Watson, also made *The Dinner Party*.

Ms Baker flew to Britain to defend herself after the series was shown. "I had been proud to be chosen with my family as representatives of Australian life to show Britain," she said. "Not for one moment did any of us think this was how they were going to see us. The editing was cruel and vicious. I was betrayed."

There were protests from some of the participants in *The Fishing Party*, another Watson film. It followed a group of City brokers on a fishing trip, and there was a flood of complaints to the RSPCA after one was seen shooting a seagull with a shotgun. He was later fined £680 by a court.

Not everyone is left with only bad memories. Marc and Karen Adams-Jones were filmed in the run-up to their wedding for Desmond Wilcox's documentary *The Marriage* in 1986. The BBC film led to an argument between the couple when the cameras caught Mr Adams-Jones with a former girlfriend during a rugby trip. The couple were not, however, unhappy with the way they were portrayed in general.

"We were very naive at first," said Mrs Adams-Jones, now a mother of four. "We were very honest and open with each other and the film crew. The cameras fade into the background if you live with them for a year. You think of them as your friends."

Roger Graef, a documentary maker whose credits include *Police*, said yesterday: "Fly-on-the-wall can be misused. There are people who use it as a short cut or even as a trap, but by no means all. It depends on the trust you set up between yourself and the subject. Although we don't give our subjects editorial control, we show them the film before transmission and they retain the right to correct inaccuracies or edit personal secrets. We always take that seriously.

"I want to empower people with my films, not incapacitate them. But you should not shoot the messenger if you don't like the message."

Watson's first fly-on-the-wall documentary was *The Family* in 1974. It followed the fortunes of the Wilkins family of Reading, who became overnight celebrities, but complained of "living in a goldfish bowl".

Caught on film: Noeline Baker and Laurie Donaher

Stagg's wife jailed for assault on police

By Tim Jones

THE wife of the man cleared of the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common was jailed for two months yesterday for assaulting two police officers.

Southwest Magistrates' Court was told that Diane Stagg, 28, had been returning to the couple's flat in Roehampton, southwest London, to patch up her turbulent relationship with her husband, Colin. She discovered a crowd of onlookers outside her home, where her husband was being arrested for alleged criminal damage, and began swearing and hurling abuse at the officers. She ignored their warnings to calm down and lashed out with her arms and feet as they arrested her.

The officers, who received minor bruises during the incident, wrestled her to the ground before handcuffing her arms behind her back.

Ian Ryan, for the defence, said that, when the incident occurred in January, she had been under extraordinary pressure because of her husband's notoriety. The couple married in 1995, 11 months after Mr Stagg's acquittal, and she had been tarred with the same brush.

She was, he told the court, a victim of abusive letters and telephone calls and was subjected to taunts, insults and occasional violence whenever she went out. Because of the continued abuse and media attention, Mr Ryan said, she was taking Valium, developed a drinking problem and suffered from agoraphobia.

Passing sentence, David Voelcker, the magistrate, said he appreciated that she had difficulties, but said that police officers were entitled to do their job without being assaulted. She was given two months' imprisonment for each of two charges of assault with no additional sentence for a public order offence. She is expected to appeal.

Speaking after the case, Mr Stagg said: "I am gutted. I feel it is all my fault and I only wish I could do the time for her."

Lawyers send £12,000 bill for colleague's suicide

By Robin Young

TIME was money at a busy law firm. When one of its solicitors hanged himself because of pressure of work, his elderly mother was sent a bill for more than £12,000 for the time spent dealing with his death.

The bill included £1,350 for going to Christopher Bryant's home when he did not turn up for work, getting the police to break in and finding him hanged. There was also £150 for going to tell his 80-year-old mother that he was dead.

Identifying the body at the mortuary and giving a statement to the police was priced at £300. Searching his office to sort out affairs such as his will was a further £750 and £5,799.50 was charged for writing 172 letters and receiving 64.

The bill from James Beauchamp solicitors, in Edgbaston, Birmingham, was reduced by three quarters after the dead man's family complained to the Office of Supervision of Solicitors, and yesterday the firm agreed to waive the bill entirely "in view of the distress of Christopher's family". It rejected any suggestion of acting improperly.

However, the dead man's widowed mother, Irene Brierley, 80, said: "The bill was a terrible thing and I hope the man who did it will feel embarrassed now it has come out. I was very, very upset that my son had died. He was a brilliant man and a brilliant solicitor."

Mr Bryant's sister, Melanie Weerdmeester, 45, of Snitterfield, Warwickshire, said: "If somebody at work dies, then you sort out their affairs. You do not send an 80-year-old woman the bill for doing it. The one that really upsets me is £150 to knock on my mother's door to say: 'Your son is dead.' He put blood, sweat and tears into that firm, and to think they have done this is incredible."

The body of Mr Bryant, 54, a property solicitor, was found by a colleague, John Westall, on November 18, 1994. An inquest reached a verdict of suicide after being told that he had been a workaholic who suffered from "white-collar stress".

Mrs Weerdmeester, a retired sales manager, said: "Christopher was incredibly professional. He used to go to work on Bank Holidays and never took a holiday. He used to go to work at 7am and work long hours. He was a very honourable person."

Their mother, of Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, was sent an invoice in November last year for a total of £12,278.16. It included £750 for attending the inquest.

Mrs Weerdmeester's probate lawyer at the firm of Harfield-Pickering in Redditch contacted the Law Society on her behalf. The firm confirmed yesterday that the Office of Supervision of Solicitors had been contacted, and James Beauchamp had agreed to reduce the bill to £2,412 plus VAT. Last night the payment was waived.

David Waterhouse, senior partner at Mr Bryant's employers, said: "James Beauchamp solicitors reject any suggestion that they acted in an improper way in respect of the death of a highly regarded and valued employee and the administration of his estate. However, in view of the distress of Christopher's family, the outstanding payment from his estate will not be sought."

David McNeill, of the Law Society in London, said: "I have never heard of a case like this before. It has certainly raised a few eyebrows here. The Office of Supervision of Solicitors, when reviewing the bill for a remuneration certificate, have reduced it by 75 per cent, which is very substantial reduction indeed. I have to say that most firms, when a solicitor dies, would not think of levying any charges."

YOUR SON HAS BEEN FOUND DEAD. THAT WILL BE £150

Items on the bill for "professional charges" included:

"Attending Mr Bryant's home when he failed to attend work and . .fs2. communicating with the police, after considerable delays the police forced an entry and Mr Bryant's body was discovered, who appeared to have taken his own life by hanging. (partner time 9 hours) £1,350"

"Attending at the home of Mrs Brierley to advise her of his sudden death and receiving basic instructions from her to take whatever steps were necessary. £150"

"Attending upon the Coroner's Office for indentification of the body, giving statement to the police and dealing with further matters. £300."

Bryant: hanged

Shrimps chalk up white cliffs victory

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

THE White Cliffs of Dover have a secret past which patriots may wish to ignore. The symbol of England turns out to be little more than a mountain of shrimp droppings.

The chalk that makes up the cliffs and lies under much of Britain has a purity and whiteness that has always been a puzzle, says a booklet linked to a BBC television programme to be broadcast on Sunday, *Postcard from the Past*.

The chalk is made up of billions and billions of tiny fragments of calcareous algae that appear to have sunk to the seabed like a long snowfall. But the algae are too small to fall and settle — so how did the chalk form?

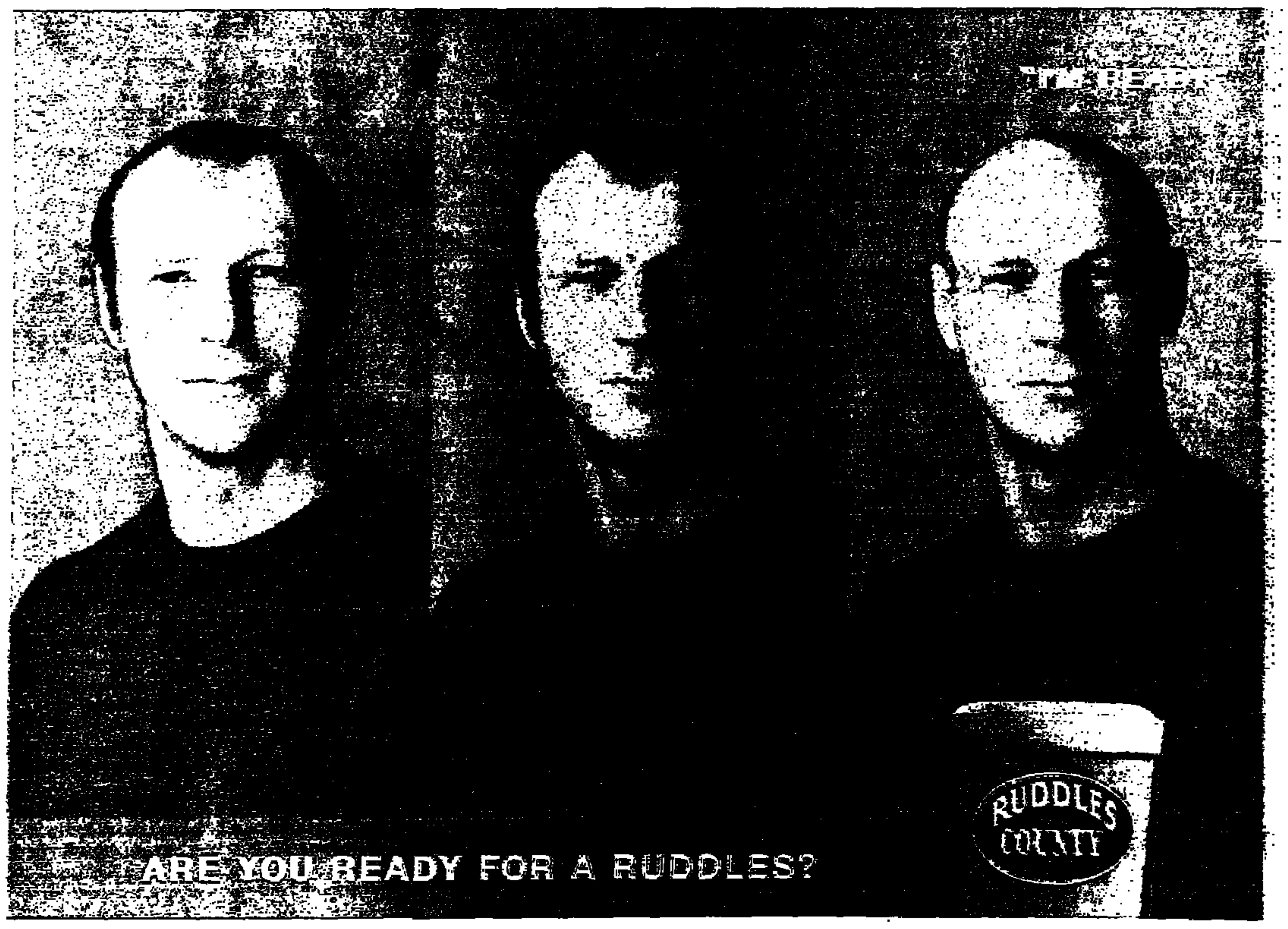
According to Anna Grayson, the geologist presenting the programme, it was the result of the algae being eaten by microscopic shrimps called copepods. The indigestible chalky bits were passed through the shrimps' digestive systems unchanged, forming solid lumps of excrement which were heavy enough to settle quickly on the seabed. Subsequently the deposits were exposed and formed the cliffs along the South Coast when sea levels rose at the end of the Ice Ages, cutting off Britain and France and leaving the cliffs as a symbol of Britain's isolation.

Ms Grayson said that she was amazed when she heard how the cliffs had been formed. "Now when I see the cliffs from a cross-Channel ferry, I don't feel sentimental. The main emotion I feel is one of cynical amusement."

☐ Tests at Edinburgh University support the theory that there was life on Mars. They show that the carbonate globules in a meteorite that landed on Earth from the planet had formed at low temperatures, compatible with life.

After scientists from Nasa, the American space agency, suggested the theory last August, critics asserted that carbonate particles found in the meteorite were not evidence of life because they had formed at high temperatures.

Dr John Valley, of the University of Wisconsin, and colleagues, including Dr Colin Graham of the University of Edinburgh, report in *Science* that detailed study of the carbonates disproves the criticism.



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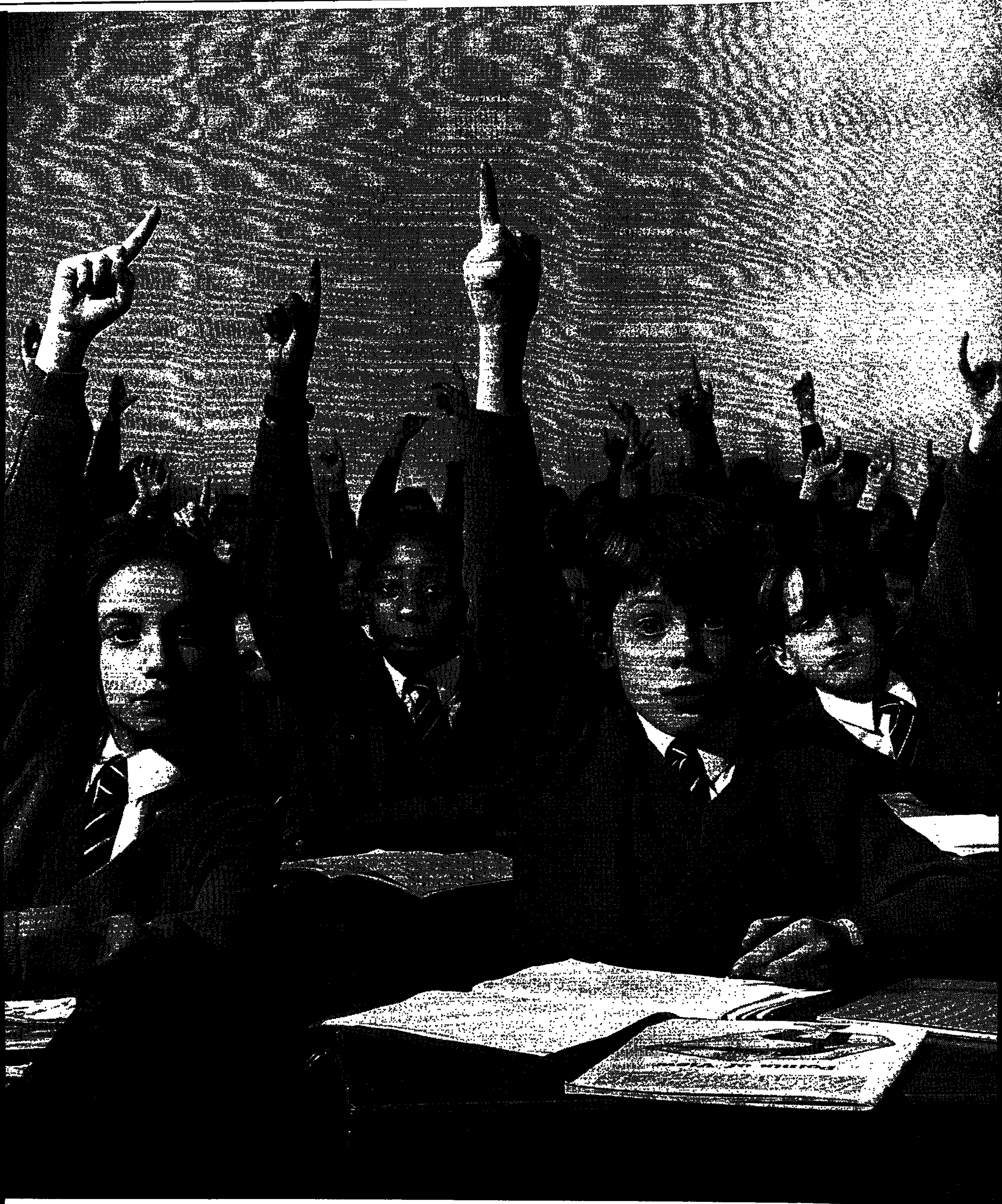

THE ANSWER IS SMALLER CLASSES.

As you can see, this class would benefit from some simple subtraction. Last year over a hundred thousand primary school children were in classes of thirty-six or more. To reduce class sizes we need more teachers. But instead recruitment is to be slashed by 17,800. School buildings are deteriorating. 94% of schools say their children have to share textbooks. Meanwhile 42% of 11 year olds are below the expected standard in maths. And half are below the expected standard in English. This government is running our education system into the ground. Does it really deserve another term?

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Parents place

School girls wh car cra

By Paul Wilkinson

PUPILS and staff state school mourning brightest Three were had been university Samantha Jocelyn Jennings Freear lunch-break their car lane and after hitting

Yesterday formers at mar School attended a tribute to the McAleese Claire's Juliet Jennings er laid a at the crash

Mr McA assembly ing the history with the brightest and

While sixthformers 1,000 pupils from him tutors we all feel at

The Samantha

Cheers in co judges save th

TWO law lords yesterday as they eviction of an "rave" commun praised its membe a "marvellous jo ing a derelict farm

Seventy members Exodus Collective nine-acre Longmea at Chalton, near squeezed into the Appeal to hear Lord Justice Ward Justice Hirst.

"Are they bringing pigs with them?" Lord Hirst joked. to have a livestock this morning? That disappointment."

The founders of tive arrived at the New Year's Eve four years ago and restore the more raves and sufficient lifestyle possession order was to the Department

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Parents place flowers at accident site as head pays tribute to 'four of our brightest and best students'

School grieves for girls who died in car crash blaze

By Paul Wilkinson

Claire Jennings: role in operatic society show

PUPILS and staff at a leading state school were yesterday mourning four of their brightest A-level students. Three were prefects and all had been expecting to go to university.

Samantha Brearley, 18, Jocelyn Bancroft, 17, Claire Jennings, 18, and Emma Freear, 18, died during a lunch-break excursion when their car veered off a country lane and burst into flames after hitting a tree.

Yesterday the 410 sixthformers at Harrogate Grammar School, North Yorkshire, attended a special assembly in tribute to the girls led by Kevin McAleese, the headmaster. Claire's parents, Ivor and Juliet Jennings, and her brother laid a posy of spring flowers at the crash scene.

Mr McAleese said after the assembly: "The school is facing the greatest tragedy in its history. We are trying to cope with the loss of four of our brightest and best students."

While he spoke to the sixthformers, the rest of the 1,600 pupils heard a statement from him read by their year tutors, "explaining the sorrow we all feel at the loss".

The car, driven by Samantha, had been a present for her and her 17-year-old brother, Ben, also a sixthformer at the school, from their parents. Yesterday her mother, Janet, 48, said: "She was a good driver, very steady, and was not one to take risks. She did not drink and did not drive fast. I can only put it down to a freak occurrence which can't be explained. I feel so sorry for all the other mothers and fathers who have lost their daughters in this terrible accident, it is an awful day for everyone."

Samantha, a prefect described by staff as "a pleasure to teach", was studying English literature, French and theatre studies, and planned to go to Hull University to take triple honours in modern languages and theatre studies.

Jocelyn was described by Mr McAleese as "a very bright, outgoing student" who was studying geography, mathematics and history and planned to read business studies at university. She was a prefect and a member of the Guides. Her mother, Lindsay Bancroft, said: "She had a bright future ahead of her. She was all sorted out on going to Humberside University. She was a very clever girl and we and her younger sister are absolutely devastated."

Emma's father, Stephen Freear, 47, said: "Emma had everything to live for. She was doing A levels in theatre studies, history and English, and had won a place to do theatre and media studies at Glasgow University this September. She was looking forward to a career in theatre production. All four were the best of friends. They were planning a holiday in Tenerife when they had finished their exams this summer."

Emma, a prefect, helped younger children with reading difficulties. Claire, who planned to study mathematics and computing at university, was taking A-level English, history and mathematics. Teachers said she was "cheerful, helpful, outgoing and conscientious". She was a member of the school symphonic wind band and its choral society, and had just taken part in Harrogate Operatic Society's production of *Me and My Girl*. She worked part-time in a private hospital.

Jocelyn Bancroft, Emma Freear and Samantha Brearley: they and Claire had planned a holiday together in Tenerife after summer exams

The girls were in a party of 12 returning to school in three cars after spending lunchtime at a pub near Harrogate. Mr McAleese said the school would examine its policy on allowing pupils to bring cars to school, but did not think it would be altered.

"Whenever a terrible accident occurs, any lessons to be learnt will be learnt. My first reaction is that this is a tragic accident which could have happened in school hours or outside. We will keep everything under review.

"Some students who live on difficult bus routes come to school in cars with permission. They are allowed to leave the premises to go into town or to go further afield. As I understand it, a group had gone out because it was a nice, early spring day and they were coming back to school in good time for afternoon registration. During the afternoon the friends in the two other cars became aware that the third car had not arrived. A group of sixthformers who were free then retraced their route in order to see if they could find their friends and they came across the accident."

The intensity of the fire after the crash means that formal identification of the victims will have to be through DNA sampling. Steve Counchman, a North Yorkshire divisional fire officer, said the car had gone round a bend and crossed to the wrong side of the road on a straight stretch. He said: "It was the worst thing I've ever seen in 26 years in the job. There was no chance of survival for anybody in the vehicle."

Cheers in court as judges save the rave

By Ian Murray

TWO law lords were cheered yesterday as they blocked the eviction of an alternative "rave" community and praised its members for doing a "marvellous job" in restoring a derelict farm.

Seventy members of the Exodus Collective, from the nine-acre Longmeadow Farm at Chalton, near Luton, squeezed into the Court of Appeal to hear the ruling by Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Hirst.

"Are they bringing their pigs with them?" Lord Justice Hirst joked. "We're not going to have a livestock attendance this morning? That's a great disappointment."

The founders of the collective arrived at the farm for a New Year's Eve rave party four years ago and decided to restore the property, hold more raves and seek a self-sufficient lifestyle. However, a possession order was granted to the Department of Transport, which had bought the property as part of a road-widening scheme that has since been abandoned.

Yesterday the judges granted the collective leave to appeal against the possession order by Luton County Court, and ruled that it could not be evicted pending the hearing of the appeal.

Glen Jenkins, a founder member of the community, said later that that the Transport Department had granted him a six-month renewable tenancy in 1992: "The department is opposing our right to stay for purely political reasons. People are often frightened by new emergent cultures."

He added that 115 raves had been held at the farm over four years: "Our raves are noted for the best respect-based order in the country. We are negotiating with police and the local authority for licensed dances."

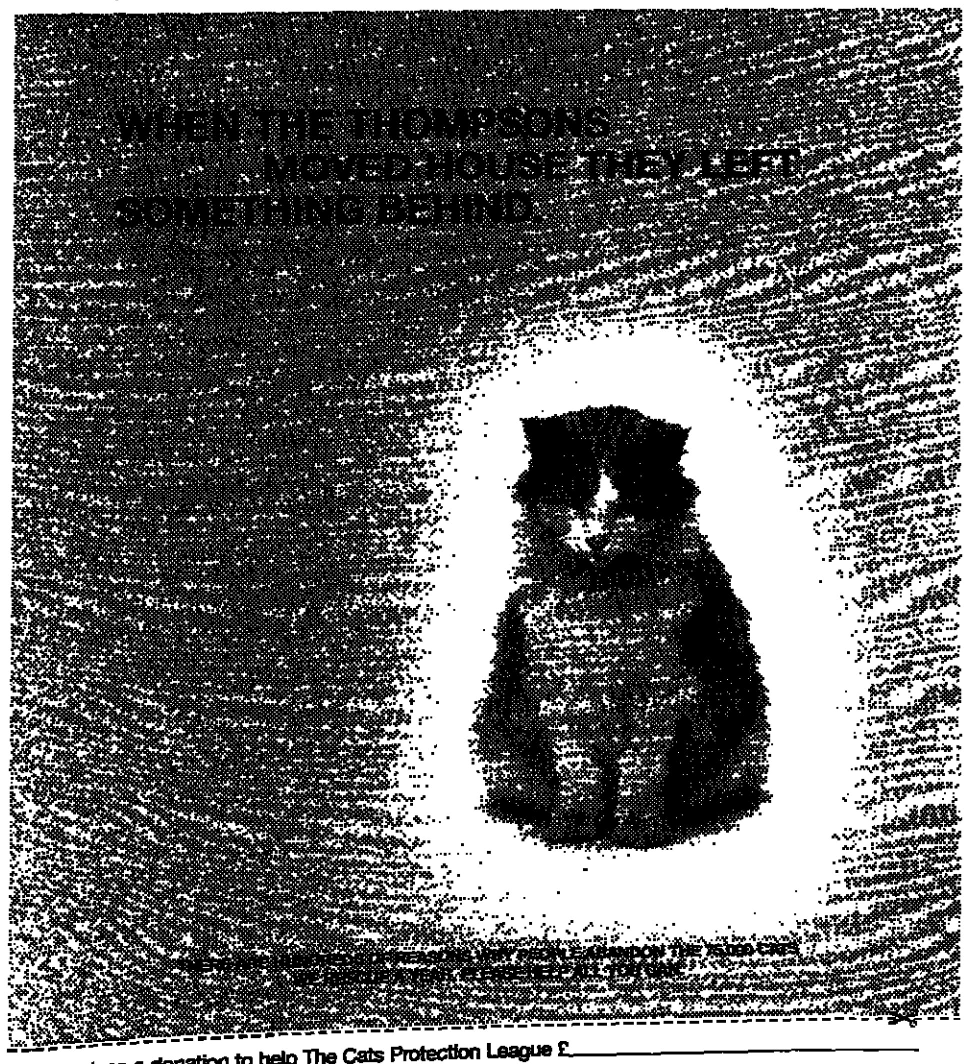
Royal plea for head of household

By Kathryn Knight

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother is advertising for a housekeeper at Clarence House. Her head of staff, Sir Alastair Aird, has placed a six-line advertisement in several local newspapers, requesting an "experienced housekeeper for a Royal House in London". Applicants are asked to write to the Comptroller at Clarence House.

The recruit will head the household and be responsible for overseeing the other housekeepers, monitoring cleaning, and ordering domestic supplies. The live-in position is understood to carry a salary of about £15,000.

Sir Alastair said that the vacancy had arisen with the impending retirement of Gwendoline Madden after 15 years. "The Queen Mother knows Mrs Madden well and is sad that she is leaving, but she has reached the age where she wants to retire."



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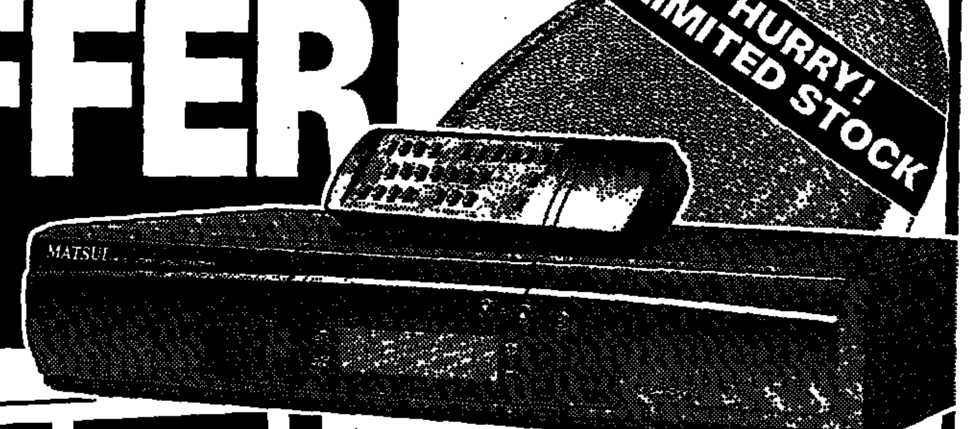

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Dixons

There's a great deal going on

Blunt Carey under fire as week goes from bad to worse

By Daniel McGrory

GEORGE CAREY'S staff concede that this has been his worst week as Archbishop of Canterbury. Now he is about to provoke further controversy with televised comments on "rave" services and the Royal Family's role in the Church.

Producers of the documentary series *Archbishop* promise that Dr Carey "pulls no punches" in his views on disestablishment and on what he believes political leaders should do about poverty and the penal system.

Peter Williams, who produced and directed the Meridian series for ITV, said last night: "He is a strong man and is not afraid to state his views. We follow him to a rave service, similar to the criticised Nine O'Clock Service, and he is very forthright. He tackles disestablishment and political issues which I suppose might be screened during the election campaign."

Runcie: criticised for his "indiscretions"

Dr Carey, who is in Jerusalem, was said to be dismayed yesterday when he saw the headline reaction to his criticism of his predecessor, Lord Runcie, but made it plain that he has no regrets about what he said.

His staff had seen the week in Jerusalem, at a meeting of Anglican primates, as a gentle reintroduction after his two-month sabbatical at a theological college in Virginia. By last night, all the benefits of his voluntary break had been undone. One aide said: "He is thick-skinned and knows the risks of saying anything, but he cannot work out why this week keeps seeing him on the front pages."

It began with hurried explanations as to why the Prince of Wales had not, as tradition dictates, asked the Church of England's senior cleric to confirm Prince William. His hosts in Israel then took exception to remarks he made in a sermon.

Dr Carey yesterday endured a sharp exchange with President Weizman of Israel when they met for a formal handshake. An aide who was present said that the President had been "a little bit strident". Dr Carey had explained that he had been misinterpreted and that he was certainly not advocating a Palestinian state. He will enjoy little respite today as he drives to the Gaza Strip and a meeting with Yasser Arafat, which Palestinian sources admit they intend to manipulate as further international support for their cause.

Dr Carey endured a sharp exchange with President Weizman yesterday over his remarks on the Middle East

The television programme containing his views on Lord Runcie is to be shown on Meridian on Sunday. A three-part series will be shown on the ITV network from Sunday, April 6. The final programme tackles his views on disestablishment and his attendance at the rave service.

Andrew Purkis, the archbishop's secretary for public affairs, said last night: "He is not an attention-seeker, but he is a direct, uncomplicated man who is not naturally tremendously diplomatic or guarded." He said Dr Carey had thought long and hard about whether to agree to let the television cameras follow him for a year.

Dr Carey made no apologies yesterday for criticising Lord Runcie's "rather indiscreet disclosures" in his biography, or for giving his views on Diana, Princess of Wales, and her marriage.

An aide at Lambeth Palace said: "Dr Carey has learnt to be ultra-cautious but somehow every remark collects headlines he did not intend. His problem is that he will never say 'No comment'."

HRT poses health risk 'only in first year'

By Jeremy Laurance

WOMEN have an increased risk of blood clots in the legs during the first year of hormone replacement therapy, researchers have found.

The risk is highest, at between four and five times that of a non-HRT user, during the first six months, then drops to a threefold risk after six months. After 12 months the risk is no higher than that of a non-user.

The study looked at the records of 350,000 women in Britain, the largest investigation of the link between HRT and the risk of thromboembolism, which can be fatal. The findings show that between one and two cases of thromboembolism a year per 10,000 women could be attributable to HRT.

The study, by researchers from Global Pharmaco-Epidemiology, Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Barcelona, and published in the *British Medical Journal*, found the type of treatment — high or low dose, pills or patches, with or without progestogens — made no difference to the risk.

"£6,000 in our PEP for five years turned into £11,164. In a building society, £7,402. It doesn't add up."

Liz Sullivan - PEP Services Manager

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Saving anorexics from themselves

Medical Briefing

A COURT has decreed that a 16-year-old anorexic patient should be compulsorily detained in hospital for life-saving treatment.

In the past, attempting suicide was a criminal offence. Now it is accepted that suicide and attempted suicide are often symptoms of many psychiatric diseases.

Anorexic patients are in danger of killing themselves, perhaps not as dramatically as by taking an overdose, but just as surely. The patient in question, called C, had threatened to take her life many times and had recently been restrained from throwing herself off a balcony.

Death in a patient who has reduced her weight to 6½ stone could occur very suddenly if she were to refuse all food, or if she were to take laxatives, diuretics (water pills), or both together. When Mr Justice Wall made his order, it seems that he was motivated by the thought that C was still a minor and that, as such, the State should step in to protect her life from the consequences of her own delusions.

Anorexic patients are predominantly, but not exclusively, white middle-class girls of above average intelligence who expect to follow a university career. Patients are often perfectionists who have an overdeveloped anxiety about their body image in particular and their health in general. They have a distorted sense of that image, so that while their family and friends see them as cachectic as concentration camp victims, they are convinced that they are still too fat.

The other characteristic of anorexic patients, of whom over 90 per cent are female, is that they have a fear of not being in control of their lives and their bodies. Mr Justice Wall has been attacked for removing the ability of C to control her own life by having her incarcerated in hospital, but if he had left her at home there might well have been no life to control. The axiom is that anorexia is a potentially lethal disease and that its progress may be unremitting until death.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

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McAliskey to keep baby with her in jail for 9 months

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

Roisin McAliskey

THE Prison Service moved yesterday to defuse the mounting controversy over Roisin McAliskey, the pregnant bombing suspect, by announcing that she will be allowed to keep her baby with her in jail.

Miss McAliskey, 25, who is seven months pregnant, is to be given a place in the mother and baby unit at Holloway prison after the birth of her child. She will be allowed to join other pregnant women in the jail at antenatal classes. Miss McAliskey, the daughter of Bernadette McAliskey, the former MP Bernadette Devlin, is also to be allowed to attend Mass at the prison chapel.

She will give birth at an outside hospital and will not be shackled during labour.

Yesterday's decision was taken after a case conference at Holloway involving probation officers, social workers and prison staff. The Prison Service wants to avoid the case becoming a *cause célèbre* for the republican movement during the general election. Miss McAliskey is being held in the jail awaiting extradition to Germany on charges of attempted murder and possessing explosives.

Alan Walker, the director of operations (south) in the Prison Service, said last night: "While prison can never be the ideal place for a baby, the mother and baby unit offers a reasonably relaxed regime geared to helping the emotional, physical and all-round development of the child, as well as teaching parenting skills to new mothers."

Miss McAliskey will be able to keep her baby with her in the unit for nine months. She will be in a room that does not have its door locked at night, though the unit is secure. The Prison Service is expected to draft additional officers into the unit because of her status as a Category A inmate. Sean McCotter, the baby's father, will be able to see his child in an area attached to the unit.

Bernadette McAliskey said last night that she was "delighted" at the Home Office's decision to allow her daughter keep her baby with her after the birth. She said: "We have at least established that some dignified and humane circumstances will pertain at the birth."

The Irish Government pushed for bail for Miss McAliskey at an Anglo-Irish conference in Dublin on Wednesday. According to a Dublin source, Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, told Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, that Miss McAliskey could not be involved in any subversive action while heavily pregnant or in labour.

Labour peers and a Conservative MP are among campaigners who have demanded that she be released on bail.

JAMES HORTON

Kwasi Minta outside the High Court, where he is seeking £1 million compensation

King's Cross fire victim admits he was here illegally

By Michael Horsnell

AN AFRICAN musician who is claiming more than £1 million compensation for the injuries he suffered in the King's Cross Underground fire was an illegal immigrant at the time of the disaster, a court was told yesterday.

Kwasi Minta admitted that, when he arrived in Britain in 1985, two years before the fire in which 31 people died, he was given a one-month visitor's visa and that he should not have been in the country.

Mr Minta, 43, is unable to play the guitar and keyboards, or sing, because of the injuries to his face and hands.

Jonathan Playford, QC, representing London Regional Transport, which Mr Minta is suing for damages in the High Court, asked him: "Do you have anything to show that you had permission to be here in 1987? Can you produce any authority which entitles you to work in this country?"

Mr Minta, a Ghanaian living in Tottenham, north London, told Mr Justice Toulson that, when he arrived, he did not realise he needed a visa. He had come to London to enhance recordings made in Ghana at studios with "more sophisticated techniques". However, his contacts in Ghana were unable to pay for the work and he had taken jobs as a contract cleaner and hospital caterer.

LRT has already admitted liability for his injuries and those of other victims of the blaze. But Mr Minta has refused to agree to the compensation already offered. More than £4.5 million has been paid to 110 people making claims for death, injury and property damage.

The judge, who will be asked to determine compensation, has not been told what the compensation offer is. If he decides on a lower amount, Mr Minta could be ordered to pay the costs of the action.

Mr Minta said before going into court that he had so far undergone 25 operations for his injuries. "I am still in pain, still miserable. My life has been made hell. I can't close my eyes when I go to sleep because there is not enough skin to my eyelids and they get infected.

"I have been trying for nearly ten years to reconstruct my life. With the proper compensation I would have my own world and things would be better. I wouldn't have to meet people."

The case continues.

Colourful choice makes salad the main event

By Robin Young

THE Spanish eat six times more salad than the British, according to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau. The bureau hopes, however, that the wider range of salad leaves, tomatoes, chicory, fennel, red onions, avocado and peppers available in supermarkets will encourage more Britons to consider salads as main meals rather than a mere side dish.

Advertised promotions include:

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Asda: beef rump steak £6.49 a kg, pork boneless leg joint £2.99 a kg, prawns £1.99 for 400g, baking potatoes 49p for four, beef tomatoes 49p a lb, kiwis 69p for 15.

Budgens: half-leg New Zealand frozen lamb £3.99 for 900g, unsmoked Dutch back bacon rashers £1.89 for 400g, frying steak £6.99 a kg, baby new potatoes 79p for 500g, Sun Ripe freshly squeezed orange juice £1.79 a ltr.

Co-op (CWS): fresh pork belly slices £2.49 a kg, chicken drumsticks £1.89 a kg, unsmoked lower-salt back bacon £1.49 for 227g, creamy chicken tikka kiev £1.12 for 250g, sugar snap peas £1.13 for 200g, Jaffa shamouti oranges 69p for five, nectarines 19p each.

Dewhurst: leg of pork 99p a lb, boneless pork shoulder joints 99p lb, belly pork 99p a lb, pork loin £1.79 a lb.

Harrods: Norfolk country-roasted chicken 49p for 100g, salpicao porto £2.59 for 100g, chicken herb pie £1.79 for 100g, Culatello "heart of Parma ham" £5.99 for 100g.

Iceland: minced turkey 99p for 454g, streaky bacon 99p for 198g, salmon fishcakes 99p for eight, minted peas 99p for 907g, sliced green beans 99p for 907g, baby carrots 69p for 907g, sticky toffee cheesecake £1.49 for 400g.

Kwik Save: Bird's Eye beef stew and dumplings 97p for 283g, Del Monte orange juice 77p a ltr, Cadbury's Milk Tray Easter egg £1.99, Maltesers honey bear egg 99p.

Marks & Spencer: butter-basted turkey breast joint £2.99 for 510g, lamb loin chops £10.99 a kg, lamb leg knuckle £5.29 a kg, mini Melton Mowbray pork pies £1.29 for six, mini chicken kebabs £2.75 for 20, Golden Delicious blush apples £1.29 for six.

Morrisons: beef topside/silverside £1.99 a lb, rump steak £2.99, boneless pork chops £1.69 a lb, white squid £1.25 a lb, mussels 39p a lb, shark loin £3.75 a lb, oranges 69p for ten, pure orange juice £1.59 for 3 ltr.

Safeway: rump steak £7.49 a kg, large chickens £1.89 a kg, meat lasagne 69p for 300g, broccoli 85p for 625g, onions 18p a lb, baking potatoes 99p for 2.5kg, white seedless grapes 99p a lb, strawberries 99p for 227g.

Sainsbury's: stewing beef £2.99 a kg, premium sausages 99p for 454g, carrots 59p a lb, French blue brie £7.95 a kg, red seedless grapes 79p a lb, red plums 66p a lb, Empire apples 49p a lb.

Somerfield: pork loin chops £3.37 a kg, smoked cod fillet £3.57 a kg, unsmoked rindless back bacon £1.39 for 225g, leeks 59p a lb, babycorn 79p for 115g, plums 65p a lb, dairy ice creams 99p a ltr.

Tesco: half leg of lamb £6.09 a kg, pork chops £3.99 a kg, pork shoulder £2.18 kg, cod fillet £1.95 a lb, Scottish herring 85p a lb, jumbo salmon £2.99 a lb, open mushrooms £1.29 a lb, cauliflower 55p each, pink grapefruit 29p each.

Waitrose: chicken legs £1.99 a kg, farmhouse duckling £2.30 for 1.9kg to 2.3kg, British diced steak £2.29 for 340g, ground pork £1.99 for 500g, parsnips 35p a lb, leeks 45p a lb, small vine tomatoes £1.49 for 300g, William pears 39p a lb.

Why a cold snap freezes the sale of cat food and bananas

By Joanna Bale

WHEN the weather turns cold, shoppers buy more milk and frozen peas, but fewer bananas. Sales of cat food and lavatory paper are affected by extremes of both summer and winter. Such discoveries earn the Meteorological Office £1 million a year and it plans to increase that profit.

Forecasters have been advising 600 retailers on how weather affects sales of 40 products. Yesterday they announced checks on 1,000 more goods, including carpet cleaners, laxatives and cooking oils. The survey will be conducted by the Weather Initiative, a business arm of the Met Office set up in 1990.

Vivienne Ballentine, its head, said: "One supermarket told us they could save £3,000 a week in every store by using weather forecasts to help them decide what stock to put out. In a chain with around 500 stores, that would add up to £80 million a year."

Frozen peas sell better in cold weather because people eat more traditional meals of "meat and two veg". They consume more milk in hot drinks, puddings and porridge. But bananas do not store well when it is cold.

In hot spells, cats eat less and their food goes off quicker. Yet when it is very cold, they stay indoors and sleep rather than run around outside, working up an appetite. During cold weather, many people use lavatory paper instead of tissues for runny noses — as do those who suffer from hayfever during high pollen counts.

Forecast, page 24

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'Homosexual orientation is a reality that the law must recognise and adjust to,' says judge

European court asked to rule on gays in Forces

By Richard Duce

CAMPAIGNERS were confident yesterday of ending the Armed Forces' ban on homosexuals after a High Court judge agreed to refer the case of a sacked Navy worker to the European Court of Justice.

The Government could face a multimillion-pound compensation bill if the Luxembourg court rules that the blanket ban breaks European laws on equal treatment. Thirty other cases are poised to go ahead if Terry Perkins, 28, is victorious. It is estimated that 2,000 men and women have been dismissed by the Armed Forces over the past 20 years because of their homosexuality.

The judge yesterday gave strong support to the case of Mr Perkins, who was discharged in 1995 despite an exemplary career as a leading medical assistant. Mr Justice Lightman said: "Homosexual orientation is a reality today which the law must recognise and adjust to." He added: "There must be a real prospect that the European court will take the courageous step to extend protection to those of homosexual orientation."

The judge made his decision in the light of a recent European judgment giving transsexuals the same protection as other men and women from discrimination and unfair treatment at work. Lawyers for Mr Perkins said that, if the directive applied to people who were undergoing, or had undergone, a change of sex, then it must also apply to homosexuals.

Perkins: had exemplary career with the Navy

Stephen Grosz, solicitor for Mr Perkins, said: "I would regard this as another step towards the death of the Armed Services' ban on gays and lesbians serving their country."

After the hearing Duncan Lustig-Prean, chairman of Rank Outsiders, which campaigns on behalf of homosexual servicemen and women, said the judge had given "a very firm steer as to what he thinks the European court will say". Campaigners said that victory at the European court could land the Ministry of Defence with a compensation bill far greater than the £60 million paid to pregnant women whose dismissal from the Services broke European laws.

Mr Perkins, now a computer consultant in Nottingham, joined the Navy in February 1991 and, during training, was twice awarded prizes for best student. After serving at sea, he trained with the Royal Marines and gained early promotion. Two months before his discharge he was awarded a certificate for exceptional service.

Mr Justice Lightman said there were three main questions for the European court to consider:

☐ whether the wording of the equal treatment directive, that there should be "no discrimination whatsoever on the grounds of sex either directly or indirectly by reference in particular to marital or family status", could be interpreted as including discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation;

☐ whether the blanket policy adopted by the Ministry of Defence could be justified by a section of the directive that gives member states the right to exclude occupational activities where the sex of the worker is a determining factor;

☐ whether the Armed Forces of a member state were excluded under a section of the European treaty relating to steps necessary for the maintenance of peace and international security.

TONY WHITE

Duncan Lustig-Prean, left, and Tremaine Cornish, of the lobby group Rank Outsiders, at the High Court yesterday

The judge said: "It is scarcely possible to limit the application of the directive to gender discrimination." The prospects of the European court upholding Mr Perkins's argument "must be significant", he said. "If transsexuals, even before and without any gender reassignment operation, are entitled to protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, it is difficult to see how such protection can be withheld from those of homosexual orientation generally."

The MoD argues that the transsexuals judgment was concerned with gender-based discrimination, had nothing to do with sexual orientation and did not affect binding decisions of the British courts upholding the Government's right to enforce the ban. The ministry also argues that the directive cannot be applied to homosexuals in the Services because the Armed Forces are exempt under EU law.

An MoD spokesman said that the ministry continued to believe that the European equal treatment directive was applicable only to discrimination against men and women on grounds of gender, rather than sexual orientation. "We may also argue that the exclusion of homosexuals from the Armed Forces is purely for the reason of combative effectiveness and incompatibility and that such key defence decisions are outside the scope of the EU treaty from which the directive derives and also outside the scope of the European Court of Justice."

Mr Perkins, who is abroad at present, said: "I think we will win. We are part of Europe and we have got to follow example to be part of Europe." A ruling is expected in about 18 months.

Law Commission complains of delay in justice reforms

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE Law Commission accused the Government yesterday of wasting taxpayers' money by delaying the implementation of law reforms.

Dame Mary Arden, the High Court judge who chairs the commission, which acts as Parliament's watchdog on law reform, said that the commission had published 20 reports since 1981 which were awaiting implementation. Last year it called for urgent implementation of six reports, but the Government had acted on only one of them. "The public do not obtain the benefit of our work until it is implemented," Dame Mary said in an open letter to the Lord Chancellor in the commission's annual report for 1996.

One of the reports ignored was that on conspiracy to defraud, published in 1994, noting a defect in the law. In 1996 the law lords ruled that mortgage fraud was not covered by the law on theft and, as a result, at least 11 prosecutions for mortgage fraud were quashed and others not brought, she said. "Delayed implementation of the recommendation for a very small, but critical, change in the law meant that many mortgage frauds were not prosecuted."

Another unimplemented report, that on offences against the person, widely welcomed when published in 1993, would modernise and rationalise an area of the criminal law in constant use, Dame Mary said. "Yet this remains neither accepted, rejected, nor implemented — a public asset from which the public is not getting any benefit. The rapidly changing social environment makes major overhaul of whole areas of law desirable or necessary."

Stephen Silber, QC, the commissioner in charge of criminal law, said that as a result of non-implementation, the law in this field — which covered grievous bodily harm, unlawful wounding and offences such as assault — was unclear. Much argument and time had been wasted over what the law meant, he said.

"The classic example is stalking. There had to be a number of cases brought before it could be decided that stalking came within the law [on assaults]. If our proposals had been implemented, everyone would have known that stalking, in appropriate circumstances, was a criminal offence and people who have not been prosecuted would have been."

Dame Mary called for a new "fast track" method of handling Law Commission Bills. Some progress had been made with the introduction of a procedure in the Lords enabling certain measures to be handled outside the chamber.

The commission's report acknowledges that eight of its recommendations were enacted in 1996, bringing "beneficial changes in the law on divorce, damages for personal injury, criminal law, trust law and property law". Recommendations on the abolition of binding over and on the revision of laws on drunkenness and on involuntary manslaughter and offences against the person should be implemented, it says.

☐ *Working for Better Law* (Law Commission 244, HMSO; £11.30).

Leading article, page 21

Dame Mary: said public had not felt benefits

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pig farm searched for body

Digging was started at a pig farm in Buckinghamshire yesterday by police seeking the body of David Martin, 50, who disappeared in 1992. Two years ago Colin James, 53, a business associate of Mr Martin, was jailed for life for his murder. Thames Valley Police said they had had information from James's lawyers.

Stabbing case

A 17-year-old youth, who cannot be named, was remanded in custody by a youth court in Guildford, Surrey, charged with the attempted murder of Alison Kennedy, 27, who was stabbed in the head on a train last week.

Drug gang jailed

Eight men were given sentences in Edinburgh ranging from ten to 28 years for a £10 million cannabis smuggling operation. A customs officer was crushed to death by a ship when they were intercepted in the North Sea.

Shops defeat

A £50 million shopping complex at Whitfield, near Dover, was rejected by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, after a planning inquiry. Dover council opposed the application, saying it would destroy the town centre.

Donors' benefit

Blood donors are 86 per cent less likely to suffer heart attacks than non-donors, a study of almost 2,700 men in Finland has shown. The small loss of iron may offer protection, it is reported in the *British Medical Journal*.

I see no snips

An unnamed university archive paid £5,060 for a lock of Lord Nelson's reddish hair at Bonhams in London. It was accompanied by another snip of hair, believed to be Emma Hamilton's, and a letter by Nelson's daughter, Horatia.

Poets' last words

The handwritten last poems of Robert Browning and his wife, Elizabeth Barrett, have been sold for £10,340 at Phillips in London. Browning's final poem, the epilogue to *Asolando*, was bought anonymously for £1,265.

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Lilley promises to prevent repeat of pensions scandal

By Jill Sherman and Polly Newton

PETER LILLEY promised a crackdown yesterday on pension firms that have failed to compensate people who were mis-sold personal plans.

There has been growing public concern about the Government's handling to the issue. The Social Security Secretary told MPs that firms which had so far not compensated people would not be able to take part in the Government's new pensions intiative, Basic Pension Plus, which he announced last week.

At least 600,000 people are still awaiting compensation years after being wrongly advised to exchange generous occupational pension schemes for expensive personal pension funds.

Most of the victims were wrongly persuaded by insurance salesmen to opt out of their company schemes, which offered far better benefits than the personal pensions they were persuaded to buy. More than 18,000 people have died before being compensated for being mis-sold a private personal pension, according to figures published by Labour yesterday.

The figures from Collette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, show that 1.5 million people were mis-old personal pensions and nearly 600,000 have been indentified for compensation because they have already retired, or are near retirement. But only 6,810 have been compensated.

"The Tories wrongly encouraged 1.5 million people to opt out of occupational pensions into private pensions in the 1980s. Why shouyld anyone trust the Government's reassurances about their new private pension plan when they have failed to sort out the mess they created ten years ago?"

Her remarks coincided with a warning by the National Assocation of Pension Funds (NAPF) that Mr Lilley's new scheme would lead to the collapse of occupational pension schemes, which cover 11 million people at work. A briefing note from NAPF, said: "The change in the tax regime could lead to the demise of the occupational pension system."

During a Commons debate on the future of pensions Mr Lilley said that Labour made "great play" of the dangers of people being mis-sold pension packages in the future, as had happened with some personal pension schemes in the late 1980s. But he reassured MPs that any companies that had failed to compensate clients would be penalised. "Needless to say any company which failed to compensate for past mis-selling would certainly not be eligible to manage a Basic Pension Plus fund." But he added: "That sort of mis-selling is not directly relevant to Basic Pension Plus and could not recur under that scheme."

Mr Lilley was pressed in the House by a succession of Labour backbenchers about the mis-selling scandal and the Government's drive to encourage people out of occupational and into personal pensions. Stephen Timms (Lab, Newham North East) said that many of the biggest insurance companies had been involved in the mis-selling of personal pensions. He asked Mr Lilley: "Are you telling the House that none of those will be able to be involved in Basic Pension Plus?"

Mr Lilley replied: "Those companies which fail to provide restitution for those to whom they mis-sold pensions would not be eligible to run Basic Pension Plus."

He said the pension reforms would allow everyone to share in the success of the economy. Under the new scheme people would get a rebate on their National Insurance Contributions, which would be paid into a personal pension fund to be paid to them in retirement."It will extend to everyone rights previously only enjoyed by the better off. It will given everyone . . . the right to a better and more secure pension."

Dog that went for Brooke

THE former Cabinet minister Peter Brooke recovering from the ordeal of yesterday's Westminster Dog of the Year competition with Koki, his labrador-border collie crossbred. As well as being pushed into second place, Koki succumbed to the excitement of the occasion and scratched her master's face, drawing blood. Mr Brooke, as tolerant as the next dog owner, quickly forgave his exuberant puppy, named after the Sri Lankan word for "black maiden". Otherwise it was a successful day for the Tories, with Phillip Oppenheim's border collie crossbred, Vom, coming first, and John Whittingdale's cocker spaniel, Humphrey, third.

Councils accused of blackmail over nursery vouchers

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

LOCAL authorities were accused yesterday of "blackmailing" parents into using their nursery vouchers for places in large school reception classes.

The issuing of vouchers, which are being sent out now to 600,000 parents for use from April, has led a quarter of councils to expand reception classes to take children from the day they become four.

The Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA) said that children's interests were being sacrificed by local authorities chasing the £1,100 value of each voucher. Private nurseries are legally limited to eight children for every adult whereas reception classes, which have no restriction, commonly have 30 or more.

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the PLA, said: "Local authorities are certainly putting pressure on parents, most commonly by suggesting that if they do not spend the voucher in the local school, the place will not be available when the child becomes five. In some instances it has been suggested quite misleadingly the school itself might be jeopardised."

A dozen playgroups have closed in Norfolk as a result of parents deciding to send their children to a primary school, leading the PLA to predict that 800 playgroups would close in the first year of the scheme.

One letter, sent by a Suffolk County Council official to parents, said that unless they used their vouchers at local schools "there will not be enough money to pay for teachers, books and everything else".

A letter to parents from Gattons Infant School in Burgess Hill, West Sussex, says that their children could be at a "disadvantage" unless they join at four. Sheddingdean Primary School, also in Burgess Hill, told parents that it was "expecting" all children who turned five during the year to start in September.

David Whitbread, education officer for the Association of County Councils, said that popular schools were right to inform parents that they could face difficulties if they chose not to take up a place with their voucher at four. "It might look a lot like blackmail but the parent who had not been alerted to the situation might be spitting blood when they find they cannot get in at five."

Bill Dickinson, managing director of a nursery school in North Walsham, Norfolk, said he would mount a legal challenge to the Children Act's limit on private nursery sizes. He said it meant that the market was "unfairly regulated" against the playgroups.

Robin Squire, the junior Education Minister, has advised local authorities to exercise restraint. But he said: "The enormous expansion in the number of nursery places far outweighs the very small number of losses brought about by closure of a few pre-schools."

Action needed to infuse select committees with young talent

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

If government is ever to be made properly accountable, it will be via the select committees of the Commons. These may turn out to be one of the most lasting creations of the Thatcher era, even if perhaps an absent-minded one on her part, as Sir Terence Higgins, chairman of the Liaison Committee, remarked yesterday in introducing its report, *The Work of Select Committees.*

The committees cannot, indeed should not, make policy. That is the job of ministers and officials. But they can influence the policy debate, and they have in the current Parliament on issues as diverse as the future of the coal industry, privacy and the media, ministerial accountability, the role of the Bank of England, and the sale of defence married quarters. Of course, the committees have many weaknesses. Some have become too close to the departments they monitor. Others have preferred big inquiries to regular scrutiny. A few chairmen, notably Greville Janner of the old Employment Committee, have been unable to resist the temptation to "grandstand" for the cameras.

There is obvious scope for improvement and the Liaison Committee report makes important suggestions — for instance, that there is no justification for any minister or former minister declining to appear before a committee (a reference, among other cases, to Baroness Thatcher's refusal to testify before the Pergau dam inquiry); that ministers should allow named civil servants to give evidence; and that more time be provided for debate on committee reports including substantive and amendable motions.

Two key changes are needed. First, as yesterday's report suggests, the executive agencies, now employing three quarters of home civil servants,"have not been sufficiently accountable". This is partly a matter of ministers allowing chief executives to give evidence when requested (not so far really a problem). Moreover, "it would be appropriate, indeed essential, for the new committees to build into their forward programme examination of some if not all of the agencies and other non-departmental bodies of whom they have an oversight". The report presents this as best practice since "it is a fundamental principle that it is for each committee to determine its own work programme". I believe that is too permissive. The committees should have an obligation to report to the House every year on the main agencies in their area. The same point applies on spending plans where, after a patchy start, more committees are looking at the improved departmental reports. The Liaison Committee emphasises the "need for committees carefully to scrutinise their departmental reports and particularly the financial information they contain". Again, that should be a matter of duty, not choice.

Secondly, the career structure of the Commons needs to be changed to encourage service on select committees. At present, the ambitious prefer frontbench service, no matter how lowly. Since 1992, four chairmen have become ministers, one even becoming an assistant whip. In his personal reflections, Sir Terence — one of the main architects of the select committee system since 1979 — argues that new members need to be balanced by the experienced, particularly ex-ministers with their knowledge of how departments work. Some former ministers have made a big contribution to the committees, but many adopt a low profile in the House after losing office and concentrate on outside business interests in preparation for retiring from the Commons. Moreover, Sir Terence noted the suggestion of the Senior Salaries Review Body that extra payments for committee chairmen should be considered.

But more radical solutions are needed. The number of ministers should be cut to reduce the domination of the front benches. Young MPs might then shift their ambitions so that select committee work is seen as fulfilling and important as part of a parliamentary career as becoming a junior minister.

PETER RIDDELL

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Residents fear 'our own little Alcatraz' will scare away tourists and potential investors

Emergency prison ship sails in to a storm of protest

By Glen Owen

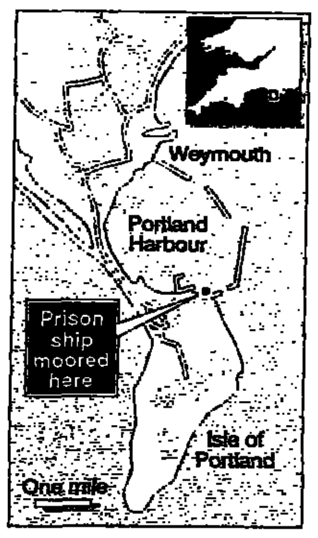
THE shadow of Victorian England fell over Portland Harbour yesterday when the prison ship Weare arrived at the end of its voyage across the Atlantic.

Not since the last century have criminals been housed in "hulks" moored off the coast of Britain. Nor should they be now, according to many of the local people who turned out to watch the 480-berth, five storey floating prison being towed into dock on the Isle of Portland. "It should be towed back out to sea and scrapped," said Nigel Copsey, of the campaign against the ship.

His is a view shared by Weymouth and Portland council. Jim Churchhouse, chairman of the planning committee, said they would be contesting the siting at a Department of Environment hearing on March 20. He believes that the area will become "the Devil's Island of Britain, scaring away tourists and investors". The English Tourist Board says that such a floating construction will despoil "a stunning geographical location".

Her Majesty's Prison Weare, named after a local river, was latterly The Resolution, a drug rehabilitation centre on the Hudson River in New York. Its £6 million annual running cost was deemed to be too expensive and it was abandoned in 1992. The Americans were prepared to sell it for scrap at £300,000 before the Prison Service stepped in with a £3.5 million offer.

HMP Weare is the length of a football pitch and as high as four double-decker buses. It is fitted with a library, chapel, mosque, squash courts and swimming pools. Inmates will be housed in a series of single and double metal boxes. As it passed the island breakwaters, quarried by 19th-century prisoners, the ship was accompanied by a flotilla of press and police launches.



Stephen Bradley, a helicopter mechanic at Portland Island's naval air station, called it "our own little Alcatraz". He said he would prefer to see it back in the Falkland Islands, where it housed workers building the island's airport after the conflict with Argentina. "This is a very busy place in the summer. The first thing tourists will see when they come here is a great big prison ship," he said.

At the Aquasport hotel overlooking the harbour, Maureen Pinion, one of the cooks, said Portland Island was fast becoming the prison capital of England. "We already have The Verne prison and a young offenders' institution. Whenever prisoners go walkabout the roadblocks go up. At this rate we will need passports to move around our own island." She pointed out that the category C inmates would lift the island's prison population to 1,500.

Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, has emphasised that the ship will be needed only for the next three years, during which time more accommodation will be built for the country's rapidly rising prison population.

The Government is building blocks with space for 2,000 inmates in the grounds of existing jails, has bought units used by Norwegian oil workers to house hundreds more, and is refurbishing wings in five Victorian prisons. Next year, Parc prison at Bridgend, South Wales, and Altcourse in Liverpool will open, providing 1,600 places. A further three jails are planned for Birmingham, Nottinghamshire and Salford, and there will be another 800-cell facility at an as-yet unknown site in Essex.

Although there have been no hulks in Britain since Victorian times, immigration detainees were held on board the *Earl William*, a Sealink ferry, in 1987. It was moored off Harwich, in Essex, but went adrift during a hurricane. In the early 1970s, detainees and internees were held on *HMS Maidstone* in Belfast Harbour. Eight of them staged a dramatic escape, swimming ashore coated in lard.

Not everyone watching HMP Weare's arrival was opposed to it. John Brooks, a taxi driver in Weymouth, thought that the prison ship's curiosity value would bring him more fares. "It is an excellent idea," he said. "Visitors will want to see it and it will bring employment to the area. People are being hysterical about the visual aspect. I don't think it will look that bad."

ANDY WHITE

Her Majesty's Prison Weare arriving yesterday in Portland Harbour, where it will be needed for three years

Police to examine council's spending

By Ian Murray

THE fraud squad has been called in by a district auditor to investigate suspected financial irregularities at a borough council.

South Yorkshire Police confirmed yesterday that commercial branch officers were analysing Doncaster council documents handed to them by Gordon Sutton, the auditor. "It is too early to say whether there is any evidence of any criminal offence having being committed," a spokeswoman said. "We are not willing to discuss the nature or scope of the inquiry at this stage."

Mr Sutton said that the decision to call in the police had resulted from matters which had emerged since he issued a management report last month. That report disclosed that members and officers of the Labour-controlled council had been on first-class trips to various countries. Mr Sutton had found that there were "working lunches" at £50 a head, where most of the bill was for alcohol. He told a meeting with leading members: "The level of alcohol consumed at these lunches makes it unlikely that those attending them could do any work in the afternoon."

The leader of the council, Peter Welsh, and his deputy, Ray Stockhill, have since resigned and been replaced by Malcolm Glover and Colin Wedd. The new leadership is setting up a committee to control spending and has drawn up stringent limits on expenses.

Court ruling on book prices closes a publishing chapter

By Michael Horsnell

THE suspended 96-year-old Net Book Agreement was finally killed off yesterday, making it unlawful for publishers to fix the retail price of books. An order scrapping it was handed down by the Restrictive Practices Court after John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, argued that it was against the public interest.

The agreement had been ignored since September 1995 as large publishers withdrew their support and bookstore chains started to discount titles. The Publishers' Association, responsible for administering it, withdrew its opposition to the agreement's demise.

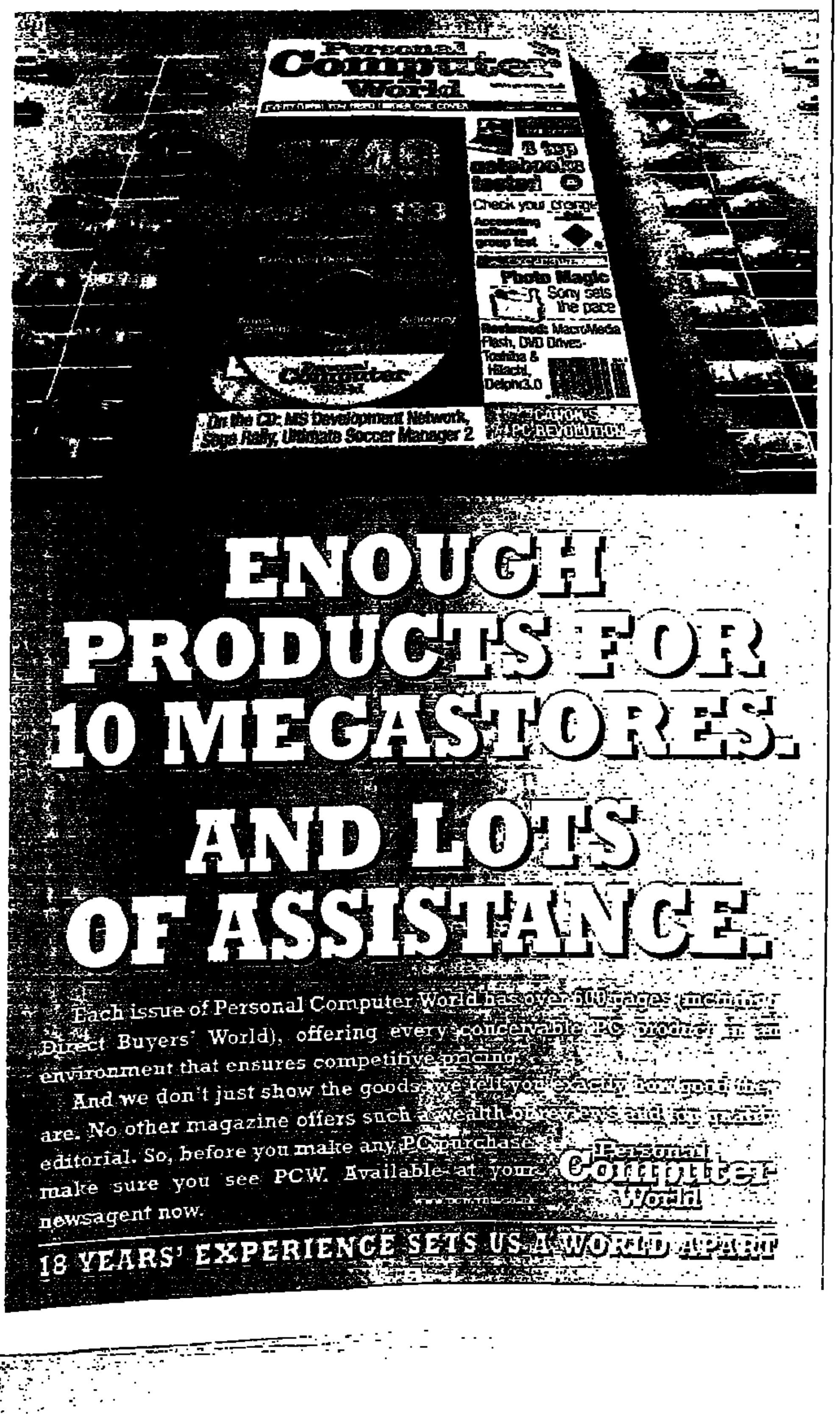
John Calder, the independent publisher, and Jenny Glayzer, from the National Acquisitions Group, tried a last-ditch fight to save it. Mr Calder said after judgment was handed down by Mr Justice Ferris: "We are disappointed. This will be of great concern to the European publishing community. We shall see if we can get the financial support necessary to launch an appeal."

Resistance to the scrapping had also come from the playwright Tom Stoppard and the literary editor Auberon Waugh, who both said that the nation's literacy had been threatened by a bestseller culture since the suspension of the agreement.

Mr Waugh said after the hearing: "What an extraordinary interpretation of the 'public interest' to suppose that anything that results in the disappearance of serious booksellers is to anybody's advantage. We can see from the example of the United States, where there's never been a net book agreement, that serious publishing — outside the strictly academic — is almost non-existent. The reading habit has been lost. Nothing but trash prevails."

The court agreed with Mr Bridgeman that there had been a change in circumstances since the 1960s, when it had ruled that the agreement was not against the public interest. Mr Bridgeman said later: "Modern production and distribution methods have removed the need for a price-fixing agreement. The agreement was voluntarily dismantled by the industry two years ago and none of the alarmist predictions about the demise of specialist bookshops have yet come about."

Mr Bridgeman had argued in court that the agreement prevented booksellers from selling titles in popular demand at lower prices and from disposing of slow-moving stocks cheaply to avoid tying up capital.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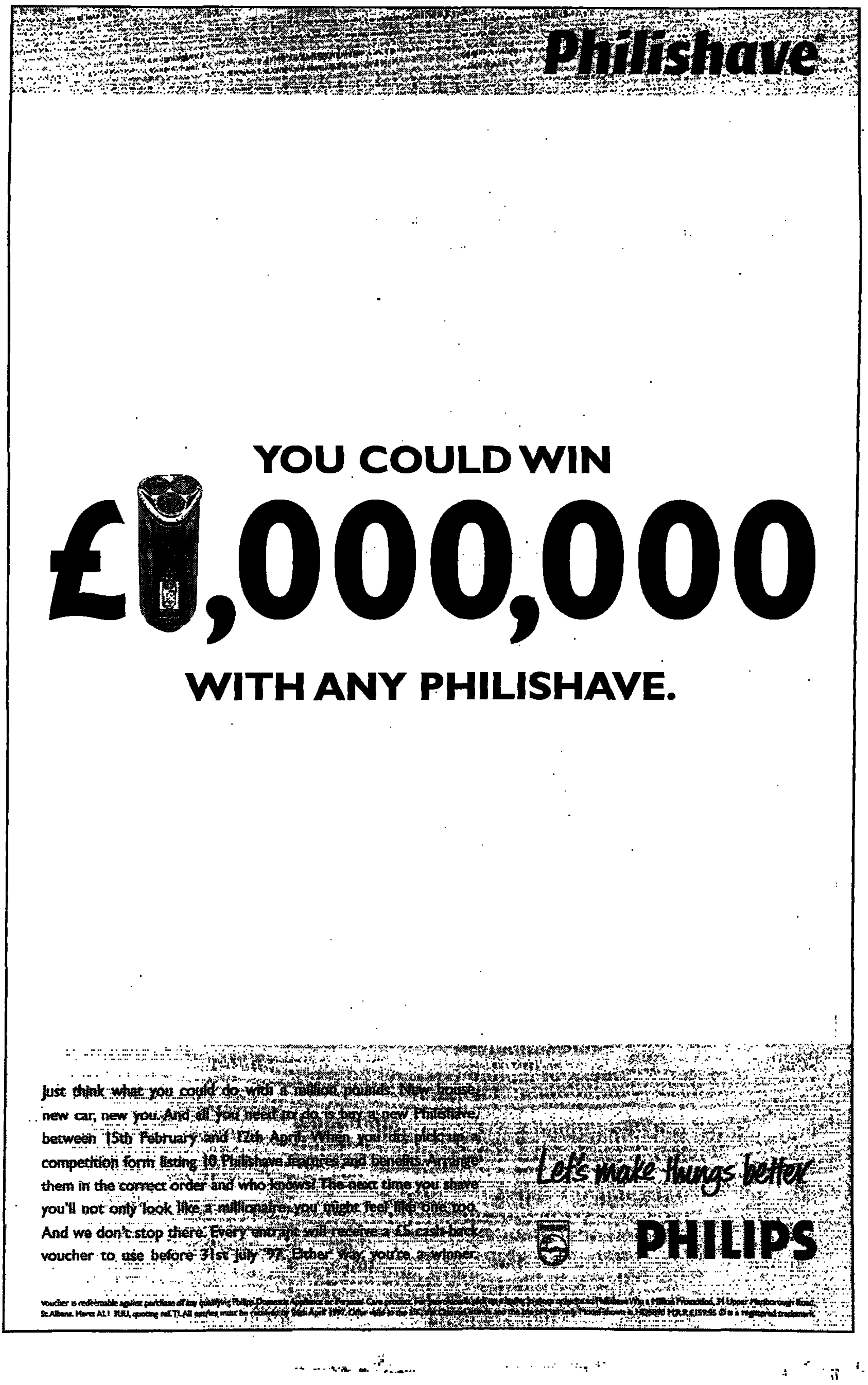
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Jubilant miners acclaim job deal as Kohl caves in

FROM ROGER BOYES IN GELSENKIRCHEN

TIRED but jubilant miners yesterday whistled and sounded hooters to celebrate a climbdown by Helmut Kohl who, after a week of tough street protests, has agreed to stop mass lay-offs in the coal industry for the next seven years.

"We are the people!" chanted the pitworkers, their overalls streaked with mud after a night spent in tents. There seemed no doubt in their minds that they had scored a considerable victory. Other miners mounted high-powered bikes and roared in a triumphant, noisy cavalcade through the centre of Bonn.

In Berlin, thousands of construction workers protested for the fourth consecutive day in Berlin against chronic unemployment in their sector and so-called wage-dumping by foreign firms.

The nature of yesterday's compromise shows yet again the great gulf between the Chancellor's brand of Christian Democracy and the radical Toryism of Margaret Thatcher, the last West European leader to win an open confrontation with miners' unions. The Chancellor's original plan, crafted together with the Free Democrats, his more zealous reformist partner in the government coalition, was to cut subsidies to £1.4 billion a year by 2005. Each coalminer is subsidised now to the tune of £50,000 a year. Under the plan ten pits were to be closed and 50,000 miners were to be made redundant.

Now the pit closures will be more evenly spread, coming at the rate of one a year until 2005. About 26,000 jobs will disappear between now and 2000 but the workers will be offered early retirement, voluntary redundancy packages and elaborate retraining schemes that will keep them off the dole.

Another 20,000 will be eased out of the pits in the five years that follow. Government has found about £300 million in extra financial help over the next three years to ensure that the miners from the Ruhr and Saar regions do not add to the unemployment figures; the coalmining region of North Rhine Westphalia is also chipping in.

There were worried faces among the revellers in the Hugo pit in Gelsenkirchen yesterday. "Most of us here are young," said Klaus Prendel, 23. "Even if my job is safe until I'm 30 — what then? I can't retire." Some complained that the constant threat of closure has soured the working atmosphere. Management was complaining of long tea breaks and time-wasting pauses to apply eye creams and dust masks.

The Free Democratic Party supported the compromise but was less than enthusiastic about the result. It has consistently argued for an end to coal subsidies.

However, under the terms of the compromise total coal subsidies will stay at around £3 billion at least until the year 2001 — by which time there may well be some form of Social Democratic government in Bonn, even more reluctant to risk a confrontation with the unions.

☐ **Job warning:** Ian Lang, the president of the Board of Trade, yesterday urged German industrialists to speak out against inserting an employment chapter in the revised Maastricht treaty. Speaking in German to businessmen in Düsseldorf he said: "I would encourage you as German industrialists to make your views known ... The time to speak out is now. The new chapter will not create a single job, except, perhaps, in the European Commission."

PETER BICK/AP

Pit workers in Cologne greet the announcement of an agreement to soften the impact of cutting subsidies to the coal industry. Only one mine will close each year until 2005

Canada pulls out diplomats from Nigeria

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

CANADA has suspended diplomatic relations with Nigeria, recalled its High Commissioner and closed its offices in Lagos.

The simmering dispute between Canada and Nigeria erupted into the open after the Nigerian military regime of General Sani Abacha refused entry to a Canadian diplomat last December. The crisis also comes as Nigeria filed charges of treason against Wole Soyinka, a Nobel prize-winning author and a critic of the regime, and 11 other Nigerian dissidents over a series of bomb blasts at army bases, which killed three soldiers. They face the death penalty if convicted.

Mr Soyinka, who lives in exile in New York, was on his way to Canada last night as a guest of the Canadian Government. He said the Nigerian junta is striking out at Canada because of its attempt to mount an international boycott against Nigeria over its abuse of human rights.

Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister, rejected as "outrageous propaganda" a Nigerian allegation that Canada was involved in terrorism. He said that because of the allegation and the refusal to issue a visa for a Canadian security officer, Ottawa had no choice but to close its diplomatic office.

For the past two years, Canada has been in the forefront of attempts in the 53-member Commonwealth to apply sanctions against Nigeria after it hanged Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, and other democracy advocates.

☐ Deep frustration: Canada's decision is the result of deep frustration in Ottawa that the Commonwealth action group attempting to nudge Nigeria back towards democracy lacks determination to put real pressure on the Commonwealth's least democratic state (Michael Binyon writes). Ottawa's decision may widen the split within the eight-member action group over sanctions on Nigeria.

Three Britons held hostage

Paris: Three British divers were among 20 foreign oil workers being held hostage by tribesmen aboard a cargo barge on the coast of Nigeria last night (Ben Macintyre writes).

The men, working for a British firm in conjunction with French rig operators, were taken captive on Tuesday on the Escravos river in the southern Warri region by unarmed tribe members in a jobs dispute.

Bonn among last to subsidise coal

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE decision by Germany to maintain support for its coal industry keeps alive one of the last government subsidies offered to coal.

Apart from China, which is thought to subsidise mining heavily, Europe is the only region where government cash is offered to coal producers. And within Europe the only other subsidies are offered by Spain and Poland although there is a small amount of support still operating in the UK through government-enforced contracts with the electricity generators which expire in 1998.

Elsewhere large coal producing countries such as Australia, the United States, Indonesia and South Africa mine coal at relatively low cost and export to Europe and other destinations despite freight costs. The price of coal depends on its export destination and on the quality and type of coal needed. Generally the price of coal produced overseas and shipped into Europe hovers around the $40 (£25) a tonne mark.

According to McCloskey Coal Information Services, one of the most authorative monitors of coal production, Australia produces coal for about $20-$30 a tonne and can ship it here for $40. The United States mines most coal for a price of about $35 a tonne which is in line with the $34 achieved by Colombia and South Africa.

Coal production costs in Germany and Spain are high in comparison to their international competitors. European mines tend to be deeper and harder to work whereas the newer areas in Australia and South Africa are easier and cheaper.

Coal costs about $176 a tonne to produce in Germany into which the Government sinks subsidies of $130 a tonne into the industry. However, some of the subsidy is intended for long-term use for retraining and redundancy measures. In Spain coal costs about $100 a tonne to produce for which the Government puts up a subsidy of $50 a tonne.

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Huge surplus of nuclear material 'is easy to steal'

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

THE five major nuclear powers now have 1,600 tonnes of surplus weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium, much of it "under-protected and under-regulated", a study of the world's stockpile of atomic fuel reported yesterday.

Russian stocks were so huge that if a maverick regime, such as Iraq, tried to steal 150-200kg of weapons-grade material, the "Russians would not even know about it", says David Albright, a co-author.

Mr Albright, the president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, and a former member of the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection team in Iraq, said that the Iraqis were trying to reconstitute their nuclear weapons programme.

He and his co-authors, William Walker, the Professor of International Relations at St Andrews University, and Frans Berkhout, the senior Fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, gave a warning that excessive secrecy about nuclear stocks had made it impossible to keep an accurate record.

The report, *Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium 1996* (Oxford University Press), estimated that 3,000 tonnes of plutonium and highly enriched uranium had been produced in the past 50 years, of which 2,000 tonnes were for military uses. Less than 400 tonnes were now required to sustain nuclear arsenals, "so that 1,600 tonnes can be counted as excess".

The report estimated that Russia now had 130 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium; the United States, 85; Britain, 3.1; France, 5; and China, 4. Of the so-called threshold states, those unofficially stocking nuclear bombs or weapons-grade fuel, Israel was estimated to have 0.4 tonnes, India, 0.3 and North Korea, 0.03.

Russia also had 1,050 tonnes of highly enriched uranium; the United States, 645; Britain, 8; France, 24; China, 20; and Pakistan, 0.2. The authors concluded that previous estimates that the Israelis had built 200 nuclear bombs were probably exaggerated.

They also reported that the principal nuclear reprocessing countries — Britain, Russia and France — were producing 7-8 tonnes of plutonium from spent fuel out of nuclear power stations but in "an unprecedented growth", this was to rise to 22-23 tonnes by 2000.

With the risk of nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists, the authors called for urgent steps to be taken to improve controls of plutonium and uranium stocks, particularly in Russia where the "possibility of theft was frightening".

Indian to succeed Mother Teresa

From Christopher Thomas in Delhi

MOTHER TERESA handed over control of the worldwide Missionaries of Charity yesterday to Sister Nirmala, a former Hindu from a high-caste Brahmin family.

Frail and in a wheelchair, Mother Teresa, 86, watched the twice-postponed election of a new Mother Superior by more than 100 nuns from around the world in Calcutta. It was a day the Albanian-born nun had yearned for.

She has been asking for years to be relieved of her responsibilities, citing age and poor health, but was unanimously re-elected twice against her will. A string of health crises last year, culminating in heart surgery, finally left the order no choice but to find a successor. The Vatican, to which the order answers, is believed to have unofficially interceded to ensure that a consensus was reached, although the vote was still not unanimous.

Sister Nirmala, 63, converted to Roman Catholicism when young. She comes from a Nepali family background, although she was born in India. Sister Nirmala — her name means "pure" in Sanskrit, the root language of Hindi — was not Mother Teresa's first choice.

The Missionaries of Charity was reluctant to relieve Mother Teresa of the leadership because of her international standing as the 1979 winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace. The order has 4,500 nuns in more than 120 countries. Sister Nirmala has supervised the order's centres in Europe and the United States.

Mother Teresa will now retire to Mother House, the modest building in central Calcutta that serves as her home and the Missionaries of Charity headquarters.

Sister Nirmala said: "It is a big responsibility. Looking at myself, I feel afraid whether I will be able to bear the responsibility. But looking at God I think I can."

Mother Teresa with the new Mother Superior, Sister Nirmala, at the Missionaries of Charity headquarters in Calcutta

☐ Srinagar: Indian police used teargas to disperse Muslims protesting over a US Supreme Court decision to retain a depiction of the Prophet Muhammad inside a court that honours great lawmakers. Muslims regard the portrayal of the Prophet's face as offensive. *(Reuter)*

Conflict over fate of British hostage

From Andrew Drummond in Bangkok

DOUBTS were cast last night on reports that Christopher Howes, the British hostage who was kidnapped by the Khmer Rouge a year ago, had been killed by his captors.

Hun Sen, Cambodia's Second Prime Minister, said "intelligence sources" had convinced him there was "a millionth" chance that the mine expert from Bristol was still alive. But the report was denied by Hun Sen's colleague, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the First Prime Minister, who said he was certain Mr Howes was alive.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Phnom Penh said there had been reports both of Mr Howes' escape and his death, and that there was no new evidence of either.

The announcement by Mr Hun came just days after Mr Howes' family expressed anger at the release from jail of Cheap Vichit, the Khmer Rouge soldier who was convicted and jailed for five years for kidnapping Mr Howes, and 28 others working for the British Mines Advisory Group. Roy Howes said he "shook from rage" at hearing of the release of his son's captor.

Carmen: making a point

Australian hoaxer is unmasked

Sydney: Another Australian artistic hoax emerged yesterday, less than a week after Eddie Burrup, the Aboriginal author, was revealed as an elderly white woman (Roger Maynard writes).

The latest discovery involves a man posing as Wanda Koolmatrie, the award-winning Aboriginal writer, whose "semi-autobiographical" work won an Australian award for the best first novel by a woman in 1995.

Leon Carmen, 47, says he carried out the deception to prove a point. John Bayley, his agent, said Mr Carmen believed publishers would be more interested in the work of a part-Aboriginal woman than the first novel of a white man in his mid-forties.

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'We are sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed brought about by fear and despair'

Soldier's deadly shots echo King's warning to Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE massacre of seven Israeli schoolgirls on the ironically named Hill of Peace close to the normally placid border with Jordan could not have come at a worse moment for the tottering Middle East peace process.

Only hours before 20 shots rang out across a part of the biblical Jordan Valley that was named to symbolise the end of war between the two neighbours, Omar Rifai, the Jordanian Ambassador, had warned a group of Israeli businessmen: "The relations between Israel and Jordan are undergoing a period of strain and are not as they should be at this point. In fact, they are close to a situation of crisis."

The extent of the differences between King Hussein of Jordan and Binyamin Netanyahu, the *Israeli Prime* Minister, was illustrated in a *remarkable pair of mutually* recriminatory letters exchanged *this* week.

The atmosphere worsened when *The Washington Post* quoted Israeli officials as hinting at the history of mental illness in Jordan's ruling Hashemite dynasty, an assertion hastily denied by Mr Netanyahu. "This is a dirty maligning which is out of place," the Israeli leader said of the story. "I do not speak in such terms and I do not think in such terms."

Behind the strains on what until last year was Israel's warmest peace with any Arab party is Israel' *determination* to go ahead — even as early as *next week — with the construction* of a massive new settle*ment at Har Homa* in east Jerusalem on land conquered from Jordan in 1967.

Equally harmful to ties between the countries was *last* week's decision by the Israeli *Government to hand back* only 9 per cent more of the occupied West Bank to the Palestinians under a three-*stage agreement, as opposed* to the 30 per cent that had been expected.

Beirut: An Arab summit may be held soon to discuss measures to counter Israel's plans to build a settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the Arab League Secretary-General said yesterday. "I imagine that contacts between Arab leaders at present may lead to invitations to an Arab summit, even if a mini-summit," he said. *(Reuter)*

Unlike other Arab leaders, *who also expressed anger at* the Israeli moves, King Hussein, the great survivor of Middle East politics, had an extra reason for concern: more than 60 per cent of his subjects are of Palestinian origin and thus especially sensitive to what many saw as Israeli "humiliation" of their "brothers" across the Jordan River.

The King did *not* mince his words when he told Mr Netanyahu in a published letter that he feared the lives of Israelis and Arabs were fast "sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed and disaster, brought about by fear and despair".

Although some horrified *officials tried to brush off* yesterday's mass killing as the *one-off act of a madman,* others were outspoken in describing it as symptomatic of the frustration that has been boiling up against Mr *Netanyahu's determination to* press ahead with expanding *settlements, not only in the* West Bank but also in the *more explosive occupied east* Jerusalem.

One result of the attack is likely to be strengthening of *the hardliners on both sides of* the Arab-Israeli divide. "It *came at a moment when the* main need was for building *trust between the sides,"* said one diplomat. "Unfortunately, *the result will be to have the* opposite effect."

*Although the border be*tween Israel and Jordan was *quiet even before peace was* signed between King Hussein and the late *Yitzhak Rabin* in October 1994, there has been a groundswell of popular opposition to the treaty inside Jordan which King Hussein has been resisting.

In January this manifested itself when 1,000 Jordanian policemen had to hold back 4,000 Jordanians demonstrating against the first Israeli trade fair in Amman. "Jordan is not the Zionist bridge to the Arab world," read one slogan.

The protest was organised by a "national committee" that represents a coalition of 21 Jordanian political parties, 18 unions and business lobbies. So far, the King has had little success in his efforts to break resistance to normalisation with Israel among Jordan's *Islamic-dominated professional* unions, which between *them represent* 100,000 people. They have ordered *expulsion for any member* working with Israelis.

Yesterday's killings have added a terrible poignancy to *the letter which Mr Netan*yahu sent to the King after the attack on his attitudes which was couched in language so undiplomatic that it took both Israeli and Arab officials by surprise.

"It is up to us to realise our historical mutual interests and not let the setbacks of the Palestinian track cloud the understandings that were begun by my predecessors," he wrote on Monday. "Surely, we can achieve this end in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding with the unrelenting *hope* and *resolve to* secure a better future for all peoples of this region."

After yesterday's scenes of *horror close to the muddy* waters of the Jordan River, that goal will be even more difficult to realise.

Leading article, page 21

A military aide interrupts Mr Netanyahu at a meeting to give him news of the girls' killings

ELAD GERSHGORN / EPA

Hila Ivri, 14, who survived the attack by a Jordanian soldier, is comforted by a hospital nurse. Seven schoolgirls were killed on an outing to the Hill of Peace

Hussein cuts short Spain visit

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

VISIBLY distressed after *learning of the massacre at* Naharayim, King Hussein of *Jordan and Queen Noor cut* short yesterday a private two-day visit to *Spain* and *flew* back to Amman, cancelling a luncheon with José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister.

In a brief statement from Madrid, the King expressed his "deepest sorrow and consternation" over the killings of the Israeli schoolgirls. He *said:* "When I warned a few days ago of the danger of *violence, I never thought* it would lead to this. This is something which is aimed at me, the people of Jordan and the Jordanian Armed Forces. But we must continue to work for peace. *Everything* I have done, and will do in the future, is in order to secure a legacy of peace for the children of Abraham."

Earlier, he had telephoned *Ezer Weizman, the Israeli* President, and said: "This has *hit me as if they were my own* daughters. I am very sad. *Please* convey *my grief to the* families of the children."

Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said separately that King Hussein had called upon the European Union to play "a greater role" in the Middle East peace process.

US condemns killings and calls for calm

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton condemned the killings yesterday *but will defy Jerusalem's* wishes by sending an envoy to *Yassir Arafat's emergency* conference in Gaza tomorrow.

Mr Clinton called the shootings a senseless act by a *Jordanian soldier who may* have been deranged and said *there was no reason to believe* the tragedy was politically *motivated by any larger* group.

He also *cautioned against* jumping to conclusions that the *shootings were related to* new tensions in the Middle East and *urged leaders there* to redouble their peace efforts.

Like other American presidents, Mr *Clinton* is attempt*ing a balancing act to keep* the Middle East peace process from collapsing. He angered Arabs last week with America's veto of a *UN Security* Council resolution criticising Israel's plans to *build* 6,500 homes for Jews in East Jerusalem, regarded by Palestinians as their future capital.

Since then the US has criticised Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, and demanded in vain that he should put off the construction. Israel has urged the US not to attend Mr Arafat's summit, to no avail.

America's envoy will be Edward Abington, a significant choice because he is US consul-general in East Jerusalem. He handles day-to-day concerns of Palestinians there and in the West Bank. Plans to send a second American, Aaron David Miller, deputy US peace negotiator, were cancelled without explanation.

Mr Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has also invited the *European Union*, Japan, Russia, Jordan, Egypt and Norway, *all of whom* have criticised the Israeli housing *plan. Israel was not invited* and is worried that international pressure will be marshalled against it at the meeting.

In Washington, the State Department brushed aside Mr Netanyahu's concerns, saying the Arafat conference *was not a negotiating session* for Middle East peace, nor an *alternative to direct negotiations between* Israel and the *Palestinians.*

However, in a comment that *will further rile some Israelis,* the US Government felt its *presence was important out of* respect for Mr Arafat and a *need for him to have a forum* to express his concerns.

*In a warning against any*one jumping to conclusions over *yesterday's shootings,* Mr Clinton used the occasion *to praise King Hussein's* long record of seeking peace and reconciliation. *The comment* was intended to counter the *King's criticism of the US veto,* which he described in a letter to Mr Netanyahu as having damaged American credibility as an *honest broker in the* Middle East.

UN chief 'shocked' by attack

New York: A "shocked" Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, deplored the killings of the schoolgirls on the Israel-Jordan border yesterday.

Fred Eckhard, the UN spokesman, said Mr Annan "extends condolences to the families of the victims and the Government and people of Israel". The attack came at a time of crisis in Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Mr Eckhard said the incident "highlights the need to *renew* confidence in the peace process whose objec*tive is the achievement* of a comprehensive, just and *lasting settlement in the* Middle East".

The 185-nation *UN* General Assembly was due to vote *later* in the day on a resolution criticising Israel for its controversial plans to build a Jewish settlement in disputed East Jerusalem. *(AFP)*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss sent Nazi gold to Spain

New York: Spain received 85 tonnes of *gold* from Nazi Germany during the Second World War, according to a previously secret document. The bulk of it was shipped from Switzerland, the World Jewish Congress reported.

The congress has been combing the US National Archives to trace Nazi financial dealings with neutral nations. *(Reuter)*

Freedom fears

Hong Kong: Two-thirds of people here are "satisfied" about economic prospects after sovereignty reverts to China, but 40 per cent would leave if their freedoms were affected, a local survey found.

Plotters held

Bujumbura: Six people, including two army officers, were arrested after security services foiled a plot to assassinate Pierre Buyoya, Burundi's military ruler. Car bombs rocked the capital. *(AFP)*

President's man

Seoul: President Kim Young Sam, shaken by a bribery scandal that has claimed aides, named Lee Hoi Chang, a Prime Minister he sacked in 1994, to be chairman of his New Korea Party. *(AP)*

Street crime

Albany, New York: The state senate passed a Bill making it *illegal to urinate in public and* lie in doorways or on pavements in commercial districts. It aimed to improve the quality of life, its sponsor said. *(AP)*

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US Navy 'shot down TWA jet'

When TWA Flight 800 came down last July, investigators searched for a bomb or mechanical failure. Now a US Navy missile is being blamed. **Ben Macintyre**, in Paris, and **Mark Henderson** report

INDEPENDENT investigators led by Pierre Salinger, President Kennedy's press secretary, yesterday claimed to have found radar evidence showing that TWA Flight 800 was accidentally shot down *last July by a US Navy missile*, during a secret training exercise that has been covered up by the US Government.

Federal investigators flatly rejected the conspiracy allegations, insisting that Mr Salinger's "friendly fire" theory was a "cruel hoax".

Flight TWA 800, bound for Paris, exploded off Long Island just minutes after take-off killing all 230 people on board.

Mr Salinger's initial claims that a US Navy missile caused the disaster were widely dismissed but yesterday he produced a series of radar images from a John F Kennedy Airport air traffic control video which he said provided absolute proof.

The radar evidence, contained in a 67-page report and published in *Paris-Match*, shows an unidentified "blip" heading for the airliner "at about 1,500 miles per hour". Mr Salinger and Mike Sommer, a fellow journalist, said at a Paris press conference.

The plane "was *hit in error* by an American Navy missile which had lost its lock on its original target . . . launched by a US *military vessel, either* by a US Navy missile ship or a submerged submarine involved in that night's secret exercises," Mr Salinger said.

The investigators called for the US Congress to open immediate hearings into the disaster and urged William Cohen, the Secretary of Defence, to launch an inquiry into a tragedy that Mr Salinger has called "missilegate".

Investigators say there are *three* possible theories to explain the disaster — a bomb, mechanical failure or a missile. The US Navy has insisted that no missile tests were under way in the area at the *time*.

"We have absolutely no new evidence that there was any incident like this," Kenneth Bacon, chief spokesman for the Pentagon, said. "All missiles owned by the Navy, by any ships, submarines or planes in the area have been inventoried, personnel have been interviewed, records have been checked."

On Tuesday FBI agents raided the Flordia home of Richard Russell, a retired pilot and a member of Mr Salinger's investigating team, and confiscated videotape containing the radar images.

The tape has been closely scrutinised by aviation experts who concluded it contained no evidence of a rogue missile. "It has the blip of the plane [TWA 800]. It has the blip of other planes. It has no missile. It never did. It never will," a federal official told *The New York Times*.

However, Mr Sommer said: "The Navy has not been honest. It says no missile was fired that night. That is not true. It tells half-truths, half-lies and questions those who question it."

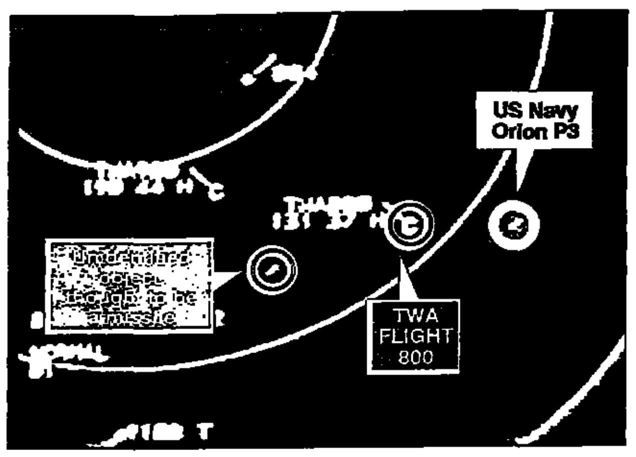
The report alleges that there may have been a hush-up because the missile was "probably" carrying a warhead of a type, banned under the SALT I arms treaty. It also quotes unnamed witnesses who monitored anti-terrorism exercises on the day of the explosion, and who claimed to have heard a voice saying: "Oh, my God, I just hit that plane".

After the crash, "apparently as a cover-up, a missile ship involved in the disaster was sent out to sea via the Middle East and its crew dispersed around the world", the investigators said.

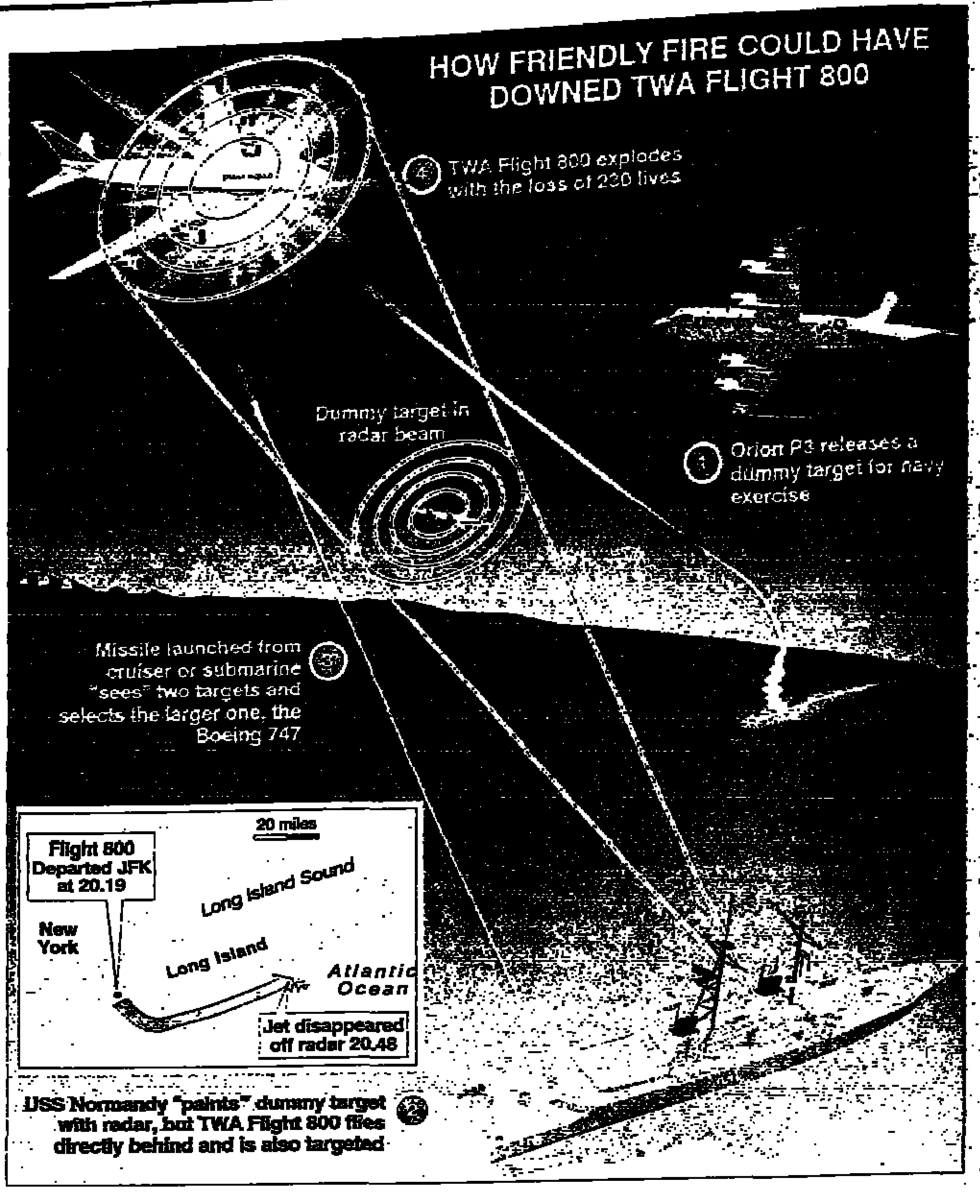
According to Mr Salinger's theory, a missile was launched at a dummy target, which the report suggests may have been a "Tomahawk cruise missile". The missile may then have locked onto the larger target of TWA Flight 800, which was flying "perilously close to the active warning area" and at a *lower altitude* than normal in order to avoid a US Air Force flight.

Mr Sommer said that evidence was compatible with two types of missile outlawed under international agreements: a continuous-rod missile which bores into a target, tearing it to shreds, and a kinetic energy warhead which leaves telltale pockmarks.

Brigadier-General Benton K. Partin, a former commander of the US Air Force armaments laboratory, said the damage sustained by Flight 800 could have been caused only by a banned missile.



A radar screen image produced in the Salinger report alleging that "friendly fire" brought down the jet


HOW FRIENDLY FIRE COULD HAVE DOWNED TWA FLIGHT 800
④ TWA Flight 800 explodes with the loss of 230 lives
Dummy target in radar beam
① Orion P3 releases a dummy target for navy exercise
Missile launched from cruiser or submarine "sees" two targets and selects the larger one, the Boeing 747 ③
20 miles
Flight 800 Departed JFK at 20.19
Long Island Sound
New York
Long Island
Atlantic Ocean
Jet disappeared off radar 20.48
USS Normandy "paints" dummy target with radar, but TWA Flight 800 flies directly behind and is also targeted ②

FBI investigators dismiss conspiracy theory as 'bunkum'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN officials poured scorn on the TWA *Flight 800* conspiracy theories being touted by Pierre Salinger, the former White House press secretary, and others who believe that the airliner was hit accidentally by an American military missile.

James Kallstrom, the senior FBI man on the case, said that the conspiracy theorists should "get a life" and that Mr Salinger's analysis of the crash, on July 17, 1996, was "just total nonsense; there is not a fact in there". An *increasingly exasperated* Mr Kallstrom added: "The theory that the US Navy had anything to do with this was put to bed a long time ago."

Other leading members of the crash investigation team lined up wearily to dismiss the Internet-based accusations of Mr Salinger. Kenneth Bacon, a Pentagon official, called them "bunkum" and a "rehashing of old theories".

He added, with heavy irony: "These allegations have been investigated time after *time after time. They have the* credibility of Pierre Salinger behind them and nothing has changed that."

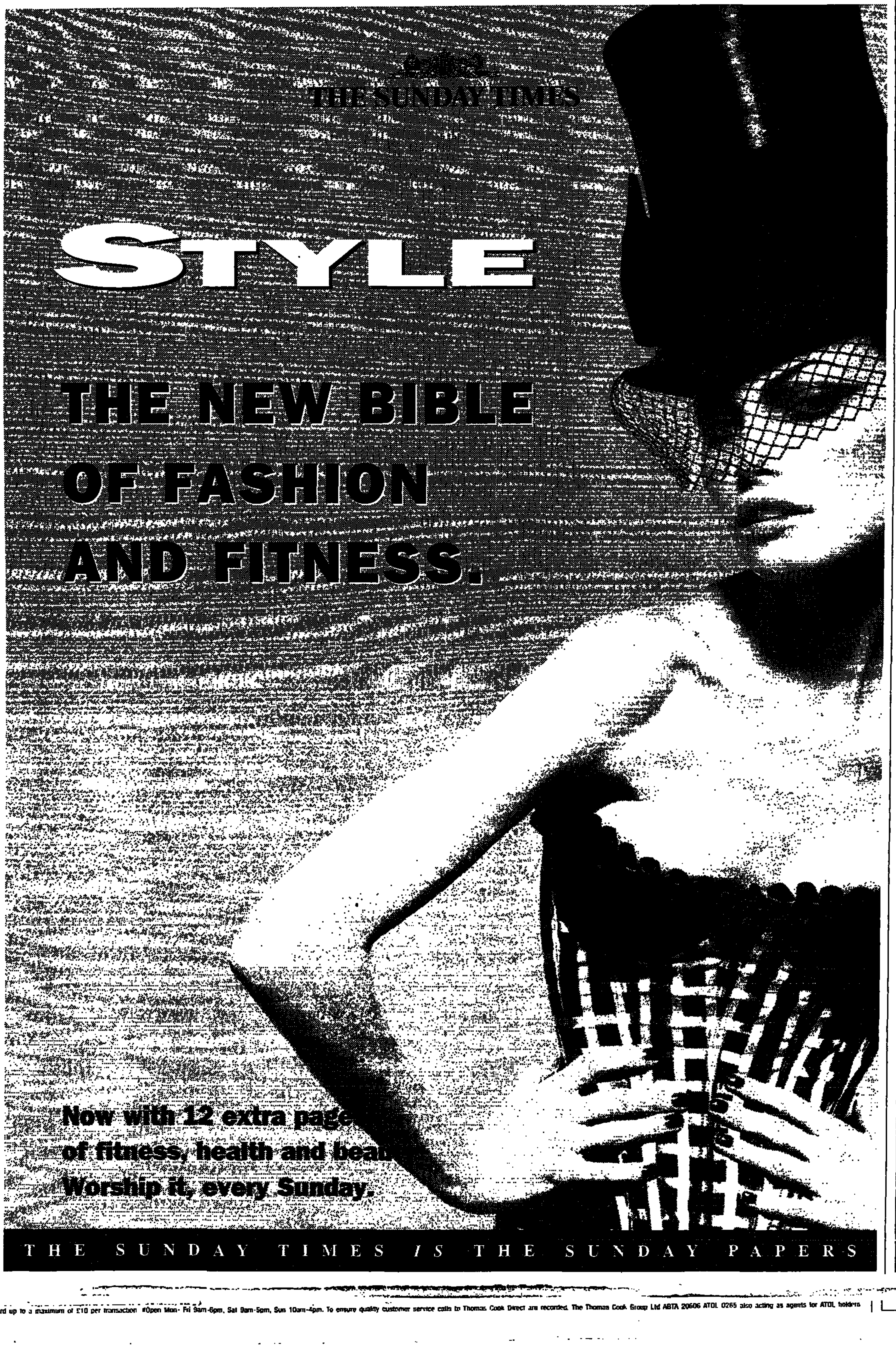
Mr Salinger's reputation as a hard-digging newsman took a knock when he first produced his theory, only to be surprised when reporters told *him that the very same document* which he was presenting as a scoop had in fact been posted for several weeks on the Internet.

Mr Kallstrom, who is assistant director of the FBI's New York office, said that the speculation was hurtful to families of the dead. "They are on this emotional rollercoaster," he said. "They tell me that they are just so depressed over these conspiracy theories."

David Isby, of *Jane's Intelligence Review, said if a* military weapon had hit the Boeing 747, it would have left distinctive debris off Long Island, quite unlike anything found in the flight wreckage.

Another weakness that can be noted in the Salinger case is the absence of any military witnesses. If a missile was fired from a US Navy boat, Mr Isby noted, it would have been seen by numerous sailors. "A hundred and fifty sailors and no one calls the press? Hard to believe in this *day and age," he said.*

On recent form, the American military has not been able to conceal even a bout of bottom-pinching in the junior ranks, let alone a calamity such as the downing of a commercial jetliner.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Berisha clings on as Tirana is swept by tide of anarchy

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

ALBANIA'S anarchy engulfed the capital, Tirana, yesterday, and the country fell into total isolation with its land borders, airport and ports all closed.

As foreign embassies began evacuating their nationals, President Berisha and the Opposition admitted that the country was beyond their control and made a united plea to the European Union for an intervention force. In the short term, however, the President's resignation seems the only short-term measure that can achieve any calm on the streets.

Heavy gunfire sounded around the capital as night drew in, and army tanks were reported to be heading for the central square. The city's prisons were emptied, including the two most important political inmates — Ramiz Alia, the former neo-Communist President and Fatos Nano, the Socialist figurehead.

Military arsenals around the capital were being looted all day, with streams of children, adults and elderly staggering away with Kalashnikovs, machineguns and ammunition. Albert Brojka, the Mayor of Tirana, appealed for calm from all political sides and religious groups. "The people must help the police in their duties — and above all else they must not fire at them," he said.

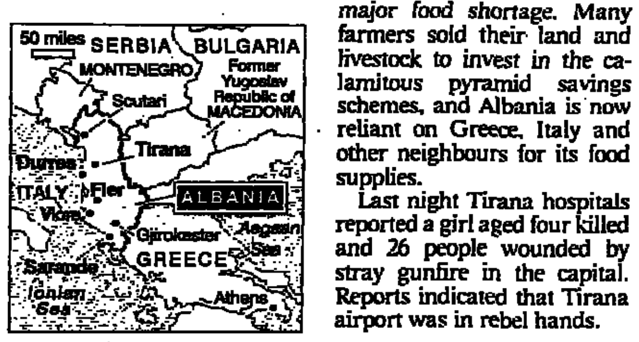
While the street value of the Lek faltered only slightly, prices of food staples doubled and shops and warehouses on Tirana's outskirts were looted. Six hundred and fifty tonnes of flour were taken amid chaotic scenes at a Swiss-owned warehouse: "We called the police; they came and left," said the tearful manager, Mustafa Koskija. The central market closed early after panic-buying of fruit and vegetables.

The British Embassy gave a "final warning" to nationals still in Tirana, and said it could not guarantee any subsequent evacuation efforts. About 120 Britons and 160 Americans were reported to be heading for the port of Durres.

South of the capital, most cars and lorries were heading to military arsenals abandoned by the police, and villagers could be seen trekking across country and along railway tracks burdened by weapons and ammunition.

Durres fell early in the morning. "There was panic everywhere, and when the gunshots began we just hit the deck," said David Wold, an American missionary waiting forlornly for a ferry to Italy.

All ships abandoned the harbour in the early hours as a rebel takeover became imminent, and by midday there were more than 50 vessels standing offshore. About 1,000 Albanians were reported to have fled on board, and many more were reported to be in small boats appearing off the Italian and Greek coasts. President Berisha, under fire from all sides of the political spectrum, grimly carried on with parliamentary business. He swore in the new Government of national unity, but looked ashen-faced and tired. He did not make an address to the nation.



In Bonn, Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said EU embassies in Tirana should draw up a co-ordinated evacuation plan for all their citizens, but the overriding question of establishing an international intervention force had hardly been addressed.

Security sources with Western embassies in Tirana confessed that they had been wrong-footed by the speed of the country's collapse, and many governments must ask themselves how their intelligence gathering in potentially the Balkans' most pivotal state went so seriously awry.

Albania was one of the world's largest producers of Kalashnikovs, and the sheer scale of the investment in self-defence made by Enver Hoxha, the former Stalinist dictator, is now apparent.

The country also faces a major food shortage. Many farmers sold their land and livestock to invest in the calamitous pyramid savings schemes, and Albania is now reliant on Greece, Italy and other neighbours for its food supplies.

Last night Tirana hospitals reported a girl aged four killed and 26 people wounded by stray gunfire in the capital. Reports indicated that Tirana airport was in rebel hands.

President's family 'escape on ferry stormed by refugees'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE children of President Berisha and perhaps other relatives of the encircled, apparently doomed, Albanian leader were last night said to be among hundreds of refugees on the *Palladio*, an Italian ferry which docked at the port of Bari in southern Italy.

It had headed for the Italian coast after being overwhelmed by fleeing Albanians in the port of Durres. Italian police cordoned off the ferry and refused to confirm that Mr Berisha's children were on board, although they said it was carrying "an important cargo". Albanian authorities closed the port of Durres minutes after the boat left.

Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, called talks with his military chiefs at the Palazzo Chigi — Italy's Number 10. Italy fears a repetition of the influx of 1991, when tens of thousands of desperate Albanians in rusting ships poured into Italy after the collapse of the Communist regime. Many died when their boats capsized.

The captain of the *Palladio*, Ernesto Giardina, said a "ferocious crowd" had burst into the port. "We had orders over the radio to cast off and get out fast," he said. Durres was under siege from armed and stone-throwing Albanians who also tried to board another Italian ferry. A cargo vessel, the *Giorgis*, with at least 200 Albanians on board, is also nearing Brindisi.

Italian reconnaissance pilots flying over the Adriatic said the *Giorgis* was weaving from side to side, suggesting it was under the control of the refugees. They said the Albanians were armed with iron bars, sticks and guns.

Earlier three Albanian air force helicopters had landed at Brindisi and their crews deserted: Italian military sources said there were women and children in the helicopters.

Three Albanian patrol boats carrying an unknown number of people also surrendered to the Italian frigate *Aliseo* in the Adriatic.

P.G. Wodehouse's work is rated high among European achievements, while Sophia Loren's décolletage is more stylish than that of Hollywood stars

Italians put Britain at top of culture class

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

OXFORD and Cambridge, the BBC, football, and — perhaps more oddly — P.G. Wodehouse yesterday topped a list of 100 "European" achievements and inventions trumpeted by a leading Italian newspaper as a response to the rising tide of Euroscepticism.

Corriere della Sera, noting that the debate on Maastricht was fraying tempers and emphasising divisions as the single currency deadline drew nearer, said it was about time Europeans — Britons included — took greater pride in what they had in common.

Italy's own contributions to the list of Euro-triumphs feature strongly, not surprisingly, with Armani fashion, spaghetti, Dante, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Olivetti, the Mona Lisa, the Vespa, Italian shoes, Neapolitan songs, pizza (Neapolitan, not American in origin), Venice, Ferrari cars and Julius Caesar as the top Italian contributions to European civilisation.

More general, Europe-wide achievements envied and unmatched by the Americans or Japanese are held to be the Airbus, architects (from Renzo Piano to Richard Rogers), entrepreneurs (Luciano Benetton to Richard Branson), the décolletage — European women such as Sophia Loren display a cleavage far more stylishly than Hollywood stars, *Corriere* claims. Newspapers and books ("Gutenberg was one of us"), sausages and cheeses, coffee (with origins in Venice and London), beer, bicycles, high-speed trains, cathedrals and monasteries, and the bidet ("given a couple of centuries even the English will understand it") are all on the list.

The Mediterranean countries win praise for olive oil, wine, the siesta, and Christopher Columbus. Greece gave us Homer and the Olympic Games; Switzerland, the Swiss army knife and fine chocolate (with Belgium); Poland provided the Pope; Belgium, Tintin; The Netherlands, Van Gogh and Denmark, Lego.

Germany can claim the Mercedes, Beethoven, and (a controversial listing) Helmut Kohl. France gets in with the baguette, Cartier and champagne, and Spain with Don Quixote and flamenco. Nordic countries are in with the sauna, mobile phones, and Ikea.

But perhaps with one eye on Europe and the British election campaign, it is Britain which wins most points, with admiring (if slightly old-fashioned) entries for "incomparable" actors ("Rupert Everett to Hugh Grant, Sean Connery to Anthony Hopkins"), dramatists ("Tom Stoppard, John Osborne"), elegant shirts, Church's shoes, Agatha Christie, B&B ("Europe's answer to the motel"), the Barbour jacket, parliamentary democracy, television, sports from tennis to rugby, Shakespeare, the black cab, the mini-skirt, the Beatles and punk. The English language — as spread by the "incomparable" BBC World Service — is praised for becoming a universal language "despite all our attempts to mangle it".

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Power suits and spike heels

MILAN

Shoulder pads plumped up an eclectic collection in Milan, which borrowed heavily from the 1980s, says **Iain R. Webb**

Whatever the mood at Milan Fashion Week, Italian fashion designers can always be relied on for a comprehensive checklist of forthcoming trends. The most obvious for autumn/winter 1997 steals from the 1980s. Power dressing is back in fashion, although the jacket has remained the mainstay in many wardrobes.

This season women will be able to drag their shoulder pads out of the closet and, once more, wear them with pride.

Designers in Milan also focused on the way in which men dress, as popularised by Ann Demeulemeester in Paris. At its most extreme, this means direct copies of men's trousers which hang loose and full (everywhere from Iceberg to Alberto Biani), but more practically it offers a pared-down approach.

Gianni Versace's reserve made his collection one of the week's highlights. Strong, simple lines — tuxedo jackets and coats, skirts which either skimmed the top of the thigh or the top of the spike-heel knee boot (an accessory you cannot afford to be without this autumn) and polo-neck sweaters which sometimes became a dress. His black leather was great, and, in a moment of pure flash, he showed multi-coloured, sparkly evening looks.

Giorgio Armani still makes getting dressed look effortless. For his Emporio line he added a touch of gloss to his understated silhouette. However, his eponymous line was almost entirely eveningwear, apart from a few sculpted, underplayed jackets. Despite the obvious question of relevance, Armani has the knack of making even the most baroque designs look modern.

Left to right: **JIL SANDER**, wrapover skirts; **VERSACE**, black leather; **BYBLOS**, slimline suits; **PRADA**, understated elegance

Left to right: **MOSCHINO**, knits; **LAWRENCE STEELE**, velvet, **SPORTMAX**, red; **DOLCE & GABBANA**, dramatic

MARNI: pure hedonism — velvet, leather and fur were the key fabrics in this collection

Tom Ford at Gucci offered Schwarzenegger shoulders and spike high heels. He also showed knee-length skirts with flies, (just like on men's trousers), fly-front jackets (no buttons), wrap skirts, wide lapels and drapey jersey dresses. Pointy red patent shoes highlight a top-to-toe black look. Jil Sander's pure style is plain and to the point — a roll-neck sweater with a wrap wool skirt, a demob-style jacket with no fastenings, worn with baggy trousers or a slim longer skirt, and bias-knits which twist about the body. Velvet dresses with cap sleeves and draped waistlines looked lush without being ostentatious.

The mood was equally pragmatic at Prada. Simple black overcoats and, once again, tuxedo-style jackets worn with pencil or wrap skirts, while army fatigues and tracksuit tops (also seen at Gianfranco Ferre in ivory wool) were shown with beaded chiffon skirts. Dolce & Gabbana dropped their diaphanous chiffons in favour of sleek tailoring, yet the mannish, monochromatic Sicilian suits were dressed up with glamorous satin coats edged with colourful furs, or appliquéd and embroidered with red roses.

Top: **GUCCI**, padded
Above: **ARMANI**, pinstripes

Labels such as SportMax, MaxMara, Trussardi, Laurel and Byblos (now designed by the American Richard Tyler) can be relied on to show everything on the list marked "trend": look out for grey flannel and pinstripe trouser suits; cut and panne velvet; fly-front coats and leather (black, plum, forest green and chestnut).

The flip of all these down-to-earth, slick clothes were the eccentric, jumble-sale looks which owe much to stores such as Voyage and Steinbeck & Tolkien in London. Alberta Ferretti's Philosophy line featured sassy-looking Babes in the Wood (think the Spice Girls meet Gretel) dressed in lots of pretty lace, plush velvet and snuggly sweaters. Ferretti's mainline collection saw her trademark fragile petticoat dresses layered under ribbed sweaters or over narrow trousers. Best of all were flocked satins and layers of mocha chiffon banded with chocolate velvet.

There were great coats and jackets (cut soft like cardigans) at Moschino. Layered with shiny brocades, crochet lace, rustic knits (sometimes beaded with rhinestones) and embroidered velvet, the models look like demented English nannies. A richly textured and extremely nostalgic look. Equally covetable was the collection by Missoni — this season their distinctive zigzag knits were coloured like autumn leaves or kingfisher feathers. Simultaneously sumptuous and slick.

Anna Molinari put pretty punkettes in party frocks and jewels. The clothes echoed her playful mood: a prim chocolate tweed suit was trimmed with kingfisher blue fur. Best at Blumarine (Molinari's second line) were jewel-coloured velvets and sparkling beaded mini-dresses with matching gypsy shawls.

The Marni collection stood out from the rest for imagination and pure hedonism. Reminiscent of Yves Saint Laurent's Russian peasants of the late 1970s, the bloused tunics and soft midi-skirts were truly desirable. High-waisted coats embroidered with folksy flowers looked fresh, while velvet, leather and fur were key fabrics.

Despite the obvious downside to watching show after show, with trend after trend repeated over and over, there *were* moments of glory in Milan — just few and far between.

Left to right: **MISSONI, ALBERTO BIANI, ALLESANDRO DELL'AQUA**

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS
Iain R Webb is fashion director of *Elle* magazine

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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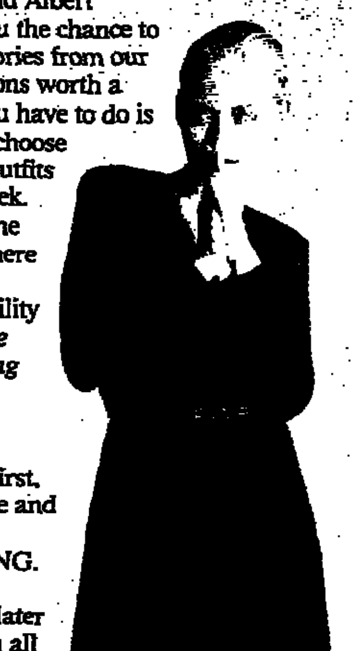

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The *Cutting Edge* exhibition is now on at the Victoria and Albert Museum until July 27. There will be more than 250 outfits and accessories illustrating 50 years of fashion from 1940s Utility clothes to the latest catwalk designs. *For more information about the exhibition and opening times call 0171-938 8441 or 0171-938 8349.*

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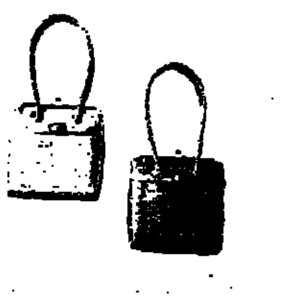

Left above: Catherine Walker brown velvet dress (£300) centre: Annie Fewlass purple beaded jacket in knitted yarn (£595) below: Muir and Osborne frock coat (£385) Right above: Bruce Oldfield jersey cocktail dress (£700) centre: Anya Hindmarsh shantung Daphne handbags (£216 each) below: Two Caroline Charles T-shirt (£21 each)

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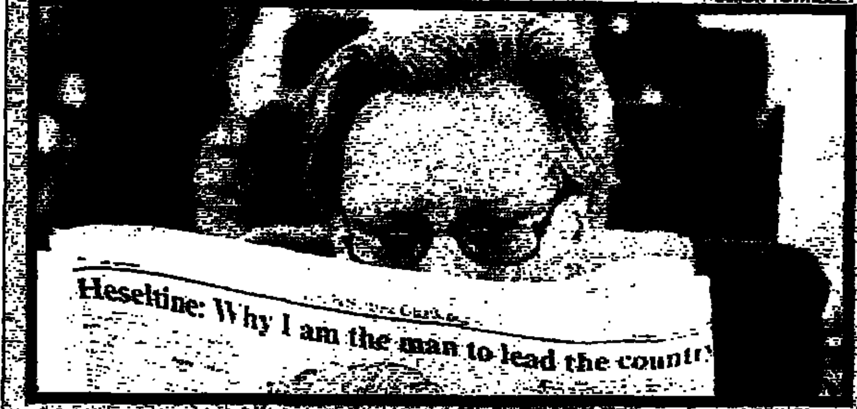
MICHAEL PORTILLO, Defence Secretary. Odds 3-1
Advantage: Euro-sceptic. Disadvantage: Spanish

CHRIS HARRIS

KENNETH CLARKE, Chancellor. Odds 12-1
Advantage: scares Labour. Disadvantage: scares Tories more

MICHAEL HOWARD, Home Secretary. Odds 3-1
Advantage: shoots to kill. Disadvantage: often misses

SIMON TOWNSLEY


Heseltine: Why I am the man to lead the countr

MICHAEL HESELTINE, Deputy PM. Odds 16-1
Advantage: blond. Disadvantage: tories prefer gentlemen

MICHAEL POWELL

STEPHEN DORRELL, Health Secretary. Odds 6-1
Advantage: mover. Disadvantage: not a shaker

BARRY GREENWOOD

WILLIAM HAGUE, Welsh Secretary. Odds 4-1
Advantage: done nothing wrong. Disadvantage: done nothing

Before the general election has even started, the Conservatives are already looking to another campaign. **Michael Gove** assesses the chances of eight of the men who might make it after Major

The Tories have been working on their Big Idea this week — developing insurance policies to prepare for retirement. It is not, however, Peter Lilley's pension plans or *Stephen Dorrell's residential care* initiative which has attracted the most interest among Tory MPs, but the plans Cabinet ministers are making for the imminent termination of their own employment. The insurance policy they have invested in is a portfolio of backbench support for the leadership election they all expect to follow any May rout.

Like nuclear submarines, the contenders' campaigns will go on silent running from today. The display of unity required at the Tory party mini-conference, Central Council, in Bath this weekend, and the general election almost upon us, will make surface manoeuvres difficult, but occasionally evidence of campaigning breaks water.

It did so most spectacularly this week when the front page of *The Express* trumpeted an "exclusive" alleging that Baroness Thatcher was lending her support to a putative Portillo campaign. Like Elizabeth I, or a Cheltenham bookie, she has a habit of perenially changing favourites. Only last night it was alleged that Tony Blair was her real darling. The lady, however, is not for quoting and has protested John Major is the only man she wants in Number Ten.

Mischievous spirits thought she might protest too much. Even more cynical souls detected the hand of one of Mr *Portillo's rivals behind The Express* story which suggested an unseemly haste to wear the crown on his part. The story, whatever its source, did not accurately reflect the bigger picture. In so far as Lady Thatcher has given consideration to a Tory defeat, and she intends to be seen campaigning vigorously to prevent one, her thoughts settle more on the message than the messenger. If the Tories lose, her first act *will be to present her own* analysis of why. She wants to ensure wrong turnings are remembered and the tramlines laid for whoever is to lead.

Friends say she is very unlikely to anoint an early successor and is far from inclining definitely to Mr Portillo.

If Lady Thatcher were to pronounce definitively on personalities it would only be if a candidate from the party's pro-European wing looked like outwitting a champion on the Right. If, for example, Michael *Portillo and* Malcolm Rifkind faced off in the final round of any election then the Enfield Enforcer could expect her backing against the Foreign Office Flyer. Mr Portillo is known to enjoy the support of some of her closest allies in the Commons, including her former political secretary John Whittingdale, but recently he has been earning warm notices from centre-left MPs such as Nick Soames, Robert Key *and* Tim Yeo. By trying to stick to his brief, Mr Portillo has made himself acceptable to mainstream figures, but his reluctance to put clear blue water between himself and Mr Major could allow him to be outflanked on the Right.

While *The Express* presses rumbled on Tuesday evening, alleging a Portillo plot that never was, one of the Defence Secretary's declared rivals was presiding at a dinner that dared not speak its name.

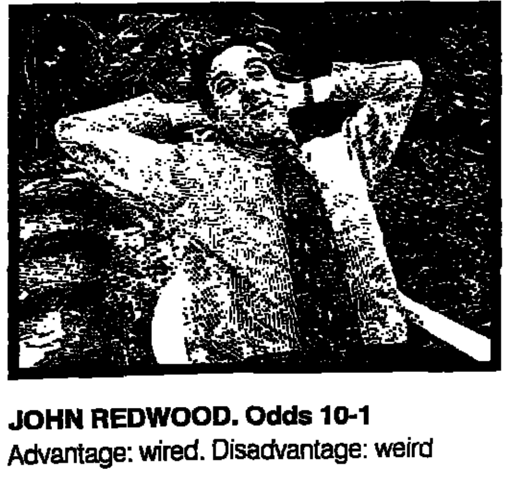
John Redwood was holding the latest in a series of not-so-discreet dinners in Shepherd's, a Westminster restaurant where he and three of his Commons supporters entertained a quartet of candi*dates who might be expected* in the House in due course. The purpose of the gatherings, to show off Mr Redwood to the potential leadership electorate, could not be made explicit. Instead, the dinner was sold as an advice session on how to win the general election.

Mr Redwood complements the dinners with drinks parties for the media in the Wilfred Street headquarters of his private think-tank and a series of speeches round the country for aspirant MPs. Like Mr Chips, Mr Redwood takes a particular interest in making New Boys feel welcome. Recently, he has spoken at meetings for five candidates expected to make it into the Commons, even in the event of defeat: David Ruffley in Bury St Edmunds, John Hayes in South Holland, Teresa May in Maidenhead, Laurence Robertson in Tewkesbury, and Gerald Howarth, in Aldershot

CHRIS HARRIS

MALCOLM RIFKIND. Odds 10-1.
Advantage: clever. Disadvantage: shows it

JAMES MORGAN



JOHN REDWOOD. Odds 10-1
Advantage: wired. Disadvantage: weird

Mr Redwood is not the only potential leader who is courting candidates. Several have received beautifully handwritten letters from the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell. Mr Dorrell has taken, according to one, to including detailed advice on the state of their majorities. As well as keeping the franking machine busy with his personal notes, *Mr Dorrell has also been* issuing invitations. As might befit an energetic steward of the nation's health, he has been sighted campaigning over breakfast with the cleverer sort of Tory, going to work on an egghead. Mr Dorrell's cause, damaged in recent weeks by gaffes on devolution and monetary union, still attracts talent.

Some of those who have talked warmly of Mr Dorrell in the past are now turning their attentions to William Hague. The Welsh Secretary, although only 36, and viewed as a *flinty rightwinger*, is seen by some of the Majorites who thought Dorrell might be the best heir as the truer successor. His recent engagement provoked one Westminster observer to put £5,000 on Hague's leadership chances, *cutting his* odds.

The backbench *bandwagon with* the biggest momentum, however, belongs to the minister most likely to put backs up outside Tory circles. The louder the liberals vilify Michael Howard, the more vigorous his support grows. A fastidious man, he eschews any campaigning himself, although *he enjoys sparring* matches over supper with bright colleagues and commentators such as the Stratford candidate and former minister Francis Maude and the *Daily Mail's* Simon Heffer. The efforts on his behalf are orchestrated by Sir Michael Spicer, a moderate Eurosceptic and protégé of Lord Parkinson.

He has already attracted David Heathcoat-Amory, Sir Ivan Lawrence, James Cran and Sir Nicholas Bonsor to a cause with which Norman Lamont and Archie Hamilton are held to be sympathetic. So, perhaps as *crucially, is the Daily Mail*

There are two candidates, undoubted heavyweights, who also enjoy press support. Unfortunately it is the wrong sort of press. Both Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke are admired by the lobby and the liberal sections of the journalistic community, but that does not make up for a lack of numbers among the ranks of Conservative columnists and, especially, MPs.

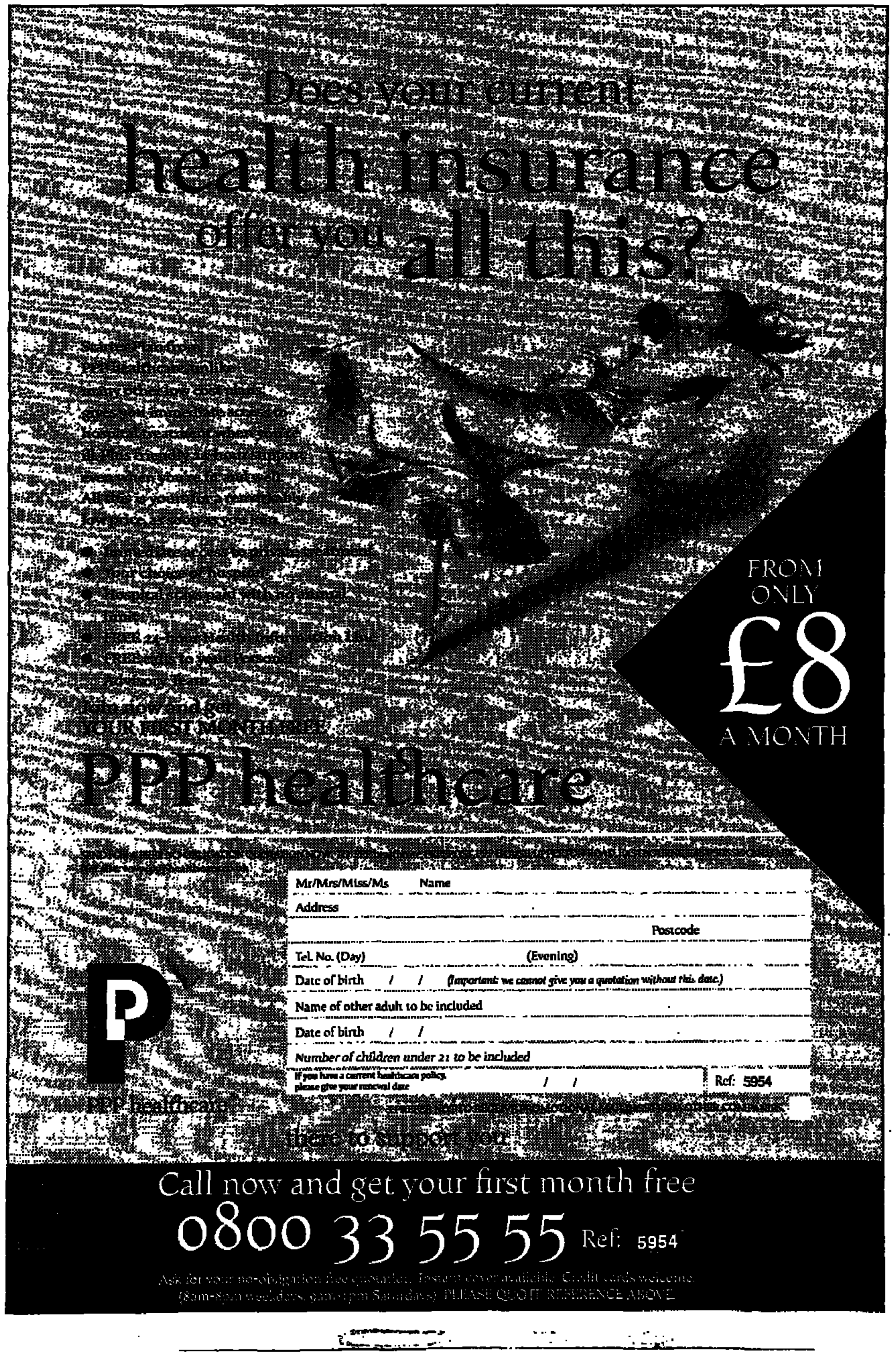
Clarke can count on purist pro-Europeans such as Jim *Lester and Hugh Dykes, who* feel that Dorrell is damaged goods, an ideological Icarus who flew too close to *The Sun*'s line on Europe. Heseltine hopes to exploit a desperation among left-wingers that there is nobody strong enough to beat the Right and his machine has been stroked back into *life by his parliamentary sherpa*, the 5ft 2in Richard Ottaway.

Unfortunately for Hezza, that same space in the moderate middle is being eyed by Malcolm Rifkind, who may not have Hezza's mane but has a better mind, and in Eleanor Laing and Crispin Blunt two *campaigners destined to make* it to the Commons.

A cooling hand on the fevered brow may be what the Tory party feels like in defeat, but more likely it will want what it has been denied — a leader who can provide colour and charisma after years spent stressing managerial competence, a leader prepared to end equivocation, a leader who will provoke howls from the high-minded but speak to Tory instincts — a leader, in *short*, like Lady Thatcher, or even, some might say, a Tory Tony Blair.

- *Odds supplied by Ladbrokes.*

Valerie Grove's interview with Roy Foster will appear next week.



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Philip Howard

■ Will the great god Pan preside over our rite of spring?

Tony Blair is not quite *Bambi*. Nor is he exactly the Devil with demonic red eyes of the posters. But there is a case for claiming that he is Pan. For: as a lad, he played the modern equivalent of piper in a group. He has that fixed smile, as worn by the earliest statues of naked young men, and so known technically as "archaic". It is impossible for spectators to see whether he has hairy legs and cloven hooves at the Dispatch Box, but cartoonists contrive to give him the look of a Faun, Satyr or Holy Goat. Take in anachronistic references to Peter Pan who never grew up. And like Pan, Blair tries to be all things to all voters. Folk etymology derived Pan's name from *pan*, the Greek word for "all" or everything, and made puns about love conquering all, and Pan being loved by all the gods. In fact the Arcadian *Paon* probably came from stranger pastures to the east, as the pastoral Vedic god who was the protector and increaser of herds.

Politics needs such symbolism to simplify its message. Colours have been used for partisan identification since before the Byzantine riots between the Greens and the Blues. At Eatanswill (otherwise Sudbury, Suffolk) the Pickwickians observed the Blues or Tories campaigning thirstily against the Buffs or Liberals. Blue still signals Tory, with variations and deeper shades of blue in perverse regions. But the People's Flag is no longer deepest red, more smoked salmon pink, with a red rose as garnish with the watercress. Advertising agents get paid millions and ennobled for dreaming up such fatuous images as a shabby lion weeping red tears. It is strange that the expensive builders of commercial images have not come up with the notion of using the oldest symbols of all.

Perhaps they have. Are cartoonists showing John Major wearing his underclothes outside his overclothes hinting Superman, or even more improbably Hercules? Labour posters show a two-headed Major looking in both directions over tax. Consciously or not, they are echoing the two-faced Roman Janus, the opener and closer of all things, including elections. And on Wednesday night John Boardman, giving the Walter Neurath Memorial Lecture at the National Gallery, made these old images dance. So he brought the imagery of modern politicians to mind.

John Prescott, with his cruise steward's trident, could star as the bluff god of the sea, Poseidon or Neptune roaring at the passengers above the waves. Margaret Thatcher actually was known, by the brave, as Boadicea. There are several parliamentary candidates for Aphrodite in her nightie; from Clare Short to Virginia Bottomley, so unkindly described by her poor man's Thersites colleague as "bone from the neck up". Ann Widdecombe for merciless Hera/Juno, the goddess of prison. Lady Olga Maitland for Iris, the rainbow messenger and serviceable tittle-tattle of her superiors, and the Beast of Bolsover for artisan Vulcan.

But Pan has a far longer shelf-life than other myths. A cartoon showing a goat's leg sticking through the ceiling, and wife exclaiming to husband "I *told* you they were holding an orgy up there" is intelligible to those with no interest in the ancient world. In *Manhattan*, Woody Allen echoes the pipes of Pan with harmonica and innocents of Arcadia abroad in the city. So Pan still plays in art, literature and life, from Milton to Shelley, from Saki to *Private Eye*. Animal imagery also works for politicians: John Major as Pooh or Mole, Blair as Piglet, Enoch Powell as Eeyore and Paddy Ashdown as Tigger. In that strange chapter in *The Wind in the Willows* called "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn", who appears having rescued Baby Otter? Who else but Pan?

Pan is an odd archetype. He combines bestial passions with animal nobility and innocence. His provenance from a lost golden Arcady plays an old tune on ancient pipes, and is a potent political image-bite. But even in Arcadia death as well as love conquers all. "The great god Pan is dead" was a cry heard by a ship sailing past the Ionian Islands at about the time of the nativity of Christ. Pan may be dead, but the old smiler with the goat's horns and legs will not lie down. And his cloven hooves drum a reminder to politicians that all careers, however ephemerally glorious, eventually come to dust when Great Pan is dead.

The day after defeat

The pressure on John Major to resign will be intense. He must resist it. The Tories need time to take stock

Matthew Parris

Oh come on, let's just say it. The Tories are heading for defeat. Granted, miracles can happen. Tony Blair might be eaten by a shark. The Archangel Gabriel might appear in Trafalgar Square on the eve of poll and command Britain to vote Conservative. Jack Straw might read his pager the wrong way up and pledge himself to the slaughter of the first-born. Though any vacuum as perfect as new Labour remains capable at all times of imploding, the vacuum chamber has been engineered well and plated in stainless steel. The chances of accident diminish as the clock ticks.

So take yourself to that likely moment outside Conservative Central Office in Smith Square on the morning of May 2, when John Major, in the dignified and steady way we have come to expect of him, steps onto the pavement to concede defeat. What happens next, in the few short minutes before national attention switches to Labour's Millbank Tower, could be critical to Britain. Should Major, there and then, declare his intention to resign forthwith as party leader? Neil Kinnock, close to tears, as good as did. The emotional pressure on John Major to do likewise will be intense. He must resist it.

Ready for the kill, the *Daily Mail* will not be pleased. Along with an assortment of commentators in other papers, its opinion columns will declare that the Conservative Party needs an immediate fresh start. There is no time to be lost (Mr Portillo's friends will say) in clearing away the baggage of defeat — of which the old Tory leader is part — and greeting the new dawn under new Labour with a new leader. There will be a good deal of metaphor, much of it mixed, about the raising of banners on commanding heights, the establishment of clear blue water, new tunes we can whistle, and the replacement of fudge by focus.

The incoming parliamentary Conservative Party should be given a few days to unpack its bags, sources close to John Redwood will hint; then, within weeks or at most months, MPs should choose Mr Major's successor. Give him or her the summer of 1997 to prepare for the first autumn conference in Opposition for 19 years. Let the party rally now, muster now, declare its new directions soon, then the long march can begin. That will be the cry.

To become the butt of such editorialising will hurt. Reading one's obituary lowers the spirits, and newspaper commentary on the Prime Minister has even now begun to take on an obituarial tone. By polling day John Major will be exhausted and perhaps depressed. Nothing would be more tempting than to terminate the pain with a statesmanlike announcement on May 2 that he means to resign as soon as procedures for electing a successor can reasonably be set in motion. What, he will ask himself, is the alternative?

I can tell him, and some of his friends will tell him, and party members across the country should be speaking up and telling their representatives now. Mr Major should say there ought to be a leadership election — and (he should add) before too long. There are two questions for him, he should add: first, should that contest be before or after the party conference in October this year? Secondly, will he be a candidate himself?

He should confirm that he is not minded to be a candidate. And he should suggest that (whatever formal rights of tenure the rules accord him), the timing of the leadership election should be up to the new parliamentary Conservative Party, whose temperature he will wish to take quite soon. But if they think it makes sense to settle down a little first, in Opposition, and gauge the mood of the new Parliament and of the party in the country, then he is prepared to carry on as caretaker leader until a proper contest in (perhaps) November, but in any event within 12 months.

What are the precedents? Precedent does not, in fact, suggest there need be a leadership contest at all. Clement Attlee, defeated in the 1951 election, carried on as leader for four years. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, defeated in 1964, did not resign until 1965 — and then only because another general election was looming and he did not wish to lead the party into it. Edward Heath did not resign after his defeat in October 1974, but was toppled the following year. Jim Callaghan stayed on for a year, until 1980. And those are the cases in which a Prime Minister who lost a general election did quit before the next one. That is not the rule. Heath was toppled only after his third defeat. Harold Wilson kept his job after losing the 1970 election, to win in 1974.

It is unlikely that John Major wants to carry on until the election after next. This we have to accept. What must not be accepted is that a leadership contest must be urgent.

Elements (in particular on the Right) are already quietly putting about that it goes without saying that there must be an immediate contest. It does not. Make no mistake: what the Right has in mind is a putsch. They want to bounce their candidates and their arguments upon a new parliamentary Conservative Party while it is still in a state of shock. This, they reason, is when their case for a dramatic change will sound strongest.

But if the argument for a lurch to the Right has as much underlying strength as it has superficial appeal, why should it be any weaker at the end of this year? By then, new Tory MPs will have had time to examine the arguments at leisure, and get to know the Right's leading contenders a little better. What is the Right afraid of, that it should want the contest so soon?

How can a new Tory MP, elected to Parliament for the first time on May 1, exercise an informed choice in the election of a leader when he or she has only around 12 weeks before the summer recess to get acquainted with the candidates? How can MPs properly consult their constituency associations when neither the issues nor the personalities have been aired in the Commons or in the press? How can the party nationally come to any view when there has been no party conference to hear the arguments, discuss the policies, or view the seaside catwalk upon which the candidates can display their charms?

The choice of leader is a decision with which the Conservative Party will probably have to live for at least a decade. It is a decade in which the whole politics of Britain is set to change. The Labour Party that Opposition MPs will face across the floor will be a new and different beast, taking the reins of government on the flimsiest of prospectuses about its intentions and plans.

What is Labour going to do? Will it be pro-Europe or (as I suspect) Eurosceptical? Will its domestic politics be radical or (as I suspect) tinkering, profligate or tight-fisted? Whose side will the Liberal Democrats be on? Will the Scottish referendum this summer plump for a consultative or a tax-raising parliament in Edinburgh?

Until we have the flavour of Labour government, is it wise to settle — perhaps immutably — the flavour of the Opposition? How can Tory MPs, even those with experience at Westminster, choose their field marshal, their weaponry and their mode of combat, until government has forced Tony Blair to show his hand? It is not as though there were any reason to rush. The Tories have until 2002 to prepare their next general election campaign. In the critical months during which Blairism is first observed in action, a leader with Major's assured and chairmanlike skills is precisely what the party needs as it settles its own responses. Fate offers the party what fate so seldom does: the time and space to look before leaping. It would be crazy not to take it.

Conceding the merits of my case, some may ask why now is the moment to make it. The general election is not yet upon us, quite. The result is not known. First things, surely, first?

No. A presumption can creep up almost unawares. Somebody tosses it out with a "naturally" or an "of course", somebody else repeats it as an acknowledged truth, and before a week has passed the whole world assumes it to be unchallenged. Soon we will be in the thick of an election with no time to mull over the assumptions with which we entered it. A presumption is growing that if the Tories lose then John Major goes — quickly. The presumption is unfounded, almost without precedent, and wrong. It should be rebutted now.

Give the capital authority

Tessa Blackstone on Labour's plans for Londoners

A fortnight after the Government unveiled its big idea for London, there is no evidence from the opinion polls of any diminution of Labour's lead in the capital. Selling off London Underground would, the Tories hoped, bring all those crucial floating voters in London and Southeastern marginal seats back into the fold. But was this ever likely? After the recent débâcle of disruptions on South West Trains, are voters likely to believe that more privatisation is the answer to London's transport problems? The Tube is only part of the network; it needs to be considered alongside buses, roads, railways and the river too, as part of an integrated approach to London's infrastructure. London is crying out for strategic management in this and many other respects, but an ill-considered selloff is typical of the present Government's piecemeal approach to London.

Many government publications declare that London is ideally placed for the new millennium. This is true in certain respects, but it cannot be said of the city's system of government. London government baffles foreigners, with its unique lack of a city-wide authority, and bewilders its citizens with a gaggle of acronyms that are meaningless to most people.

I have lived and worked in London all my adult life, and witnessed extensive reorganisation in local government, most of it unnecessary. Too many times in the past, the politics of government in London has been dominated by infighting and central government hubris. The London City Council, the Greater London Council and the Inner London Education Authority were all abolished, rather than reformed, by Conservative Governments. What we need now is a return to London-wide government with as little disruption as possible. Labour's plans for a new Greater London Authority (GLA) offer this. It is what the opinion polls say the overwhelming majority of Londoners want. In any case, after a period of consultation, Labour will give the public their say in a referendum on London government — a choice about their future which the Conservatives have denied them.

A new authority will give Londoners and London a much-needed "voice". It will allow a democratic expression of the capital's identity. The packed halls for last year's Architecture Foundation and *Evening Standard* debates on the future of London show the depth of feeling on this. London needs to make its own case in Whitehall. And when London bids for major world sporting events in the future, such as the Olympics, the world needs to know who represents public opinion in the metropolis.

The GLA will have a clearly defined remit and will be answerable to the people of London, the police and the fire service. It will be a streamlined authority, concerned with strategic problems such as land use, environmental planning, economic development and above all transport. It will deal with the capital's intolerable congestion and pollution, developing a city-wide plan for housing and urban regeneration, and setting and monitoring standards of environmental improvement. This entails democratising the regional quangos and providing an accountable authority for the Metropolitan Police, rather than the present system of reporting directly to the Home Secretary — a proposal with which the Commissioner and his senior colleagues at Scotland Yard agree. It will be much more open than the present system, in which responsibility lies with a secretive and obscure government Office for London, of which few people have even heard.

The new authority will work in partnership with the other agents of government in the capital. It will have no concurrent powers with the 33 boroughs, so avoiding the problems of the old GLC. Since the boroughs appear to be carrying out their tasks adequately at present, they will carry on with them. Some Tories raise the spectre of increased bureaucracy, but far from increasing bureaucracy, the new authority will reduce it, by rationalising the current patchwork of joint boards, voluntary committees and other complex arrangements. It need not incur any extra expense for London's taxpayers; indeed, it might save money.

For the sake of administrative simplicity, the authority could simply cover the old GLC area, which coincides with the London boroughs. For the sake of democracy it should be directly elected. Questions about the electoral system and the structure of the council are secondary. Whichever voting system is chosen, and whether representation is based on the boroughs or on European constituencies, the number of councillors should be small.

The people of London should be allowed a part in shaping their future. They need their identity and civic pride restored. They need their democratic voice to be heard again and London-wide services to be run properly. Tony Blair has said that an elected mayor would be a good idea: a further voice working with the GLA to speak for London. As a world city, London needs to be able to compete on equal terms with Paris, New York and Tokyo, each of which has its own city-wide tier of government. The Conservatives' plan is to sell off the Underground and hope that all will be well. Labour's plan is to offer Londoners a say. If the millennium is to mark the renewal of London, it should also mark the renewal of democracy in our capital city.

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the House of Lords.

THE TIMES DIARY

Take notes

THE Bank of England is preparing to print foreign currency for the first time. Together with the printers De La Rue, it has put in a bid for the contract to produce 3.6 billion 100 and 500 rupee notes for the Reserve Bank of India at its factory in Debden, Essex.

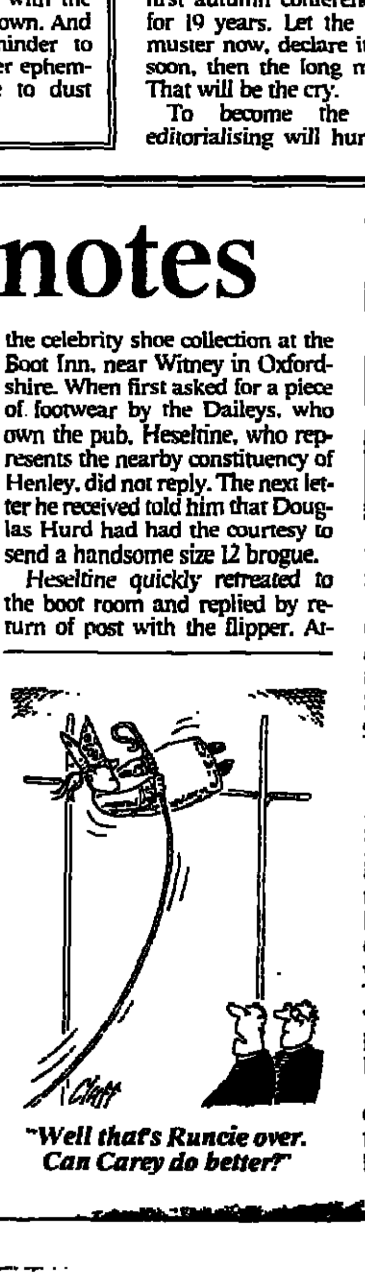
For more than 300 years the Bank has worked exclusively for the British Crown, printing notes for Britain and the Empire. But it could soon be printing money from South African rands to Cambodian riels. The Bank and De La Rue will be in competition with 17 other international consortiums for the Indian contract.

"This was an opportunity in the marketplace for us to test ourselves against the real commercial markets," says Nigel Bevitt-Smith, manager at the Bank's print works, in an interview with *PrintWeek* magazine. "This is the first time we've been able to enter an international tender and the result will definitely have a bearing on our future."

In the swim

MICHAEL HESELTINE has donated a blue rubber flipper to the celebrity shoe collection at the Boot Inn, near Witney in Oxfordshire. When first asked for a piece of footwear by the Daileys, who own the pub, Heseltine, who represents the nearby constituency of Henley, did not reply. The next letter he received told him that Douglas Hurd had had the courtesy to send a handsome size 12 brogue.

Heseltine quickly retreated to the boot room and replied by return of post with the flipper. Attached was a note, saying: "I thought this might amuse you." Mrs Cargie Dailey is now chewing over where to put it: "It belongs naturally with Hurd's, but then it might look better next to Janet Street Porter's seven-inch stiletto."



"Well that's Runcie over. Can Carey do better?"

Net result

DAMIEN HIRST, pickler, and Keith Allen, actor, have together bought a fishing boat. Allen is so taken with the fisherman's life that he turned up at yesterday's British Council International New Playwriting Awards at the National Theatre in orange waterproofs. "Just back from the Devon coast," he explained. "Been fixing up the boat I own with Damien."

Hirst, who is better known for dunking fish in formaldehyde than for netting them, is said to be serious about his new hobby, though more in a Devon-mists-and-shanties than an EU-quotas sort of way.

Drink on

THE tall spirit measures of Richard Burton live on among the Welsh actors currently rehearsing at the Donmar Warehouse in London. Michael Sheen, a Welshman himself is directing *A Bad Finger*, a new play about five men living in a Swansea junk shop. "Many of the cast are old friends from Wales," he says. "They get on too well and tend to prefer drinking to rehearsing. After the Welsh Baftas, I thought I was going to have to bail them out of police cells, never mind dragging them into rehearsal."

Hirst: fishing

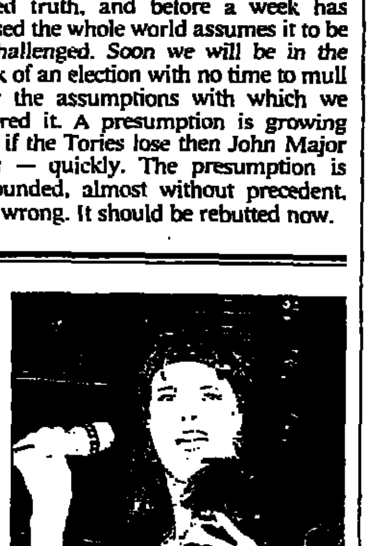
Last toast

CHELTENHAM yesterday was toasting Louise Cooper-Joyce, an unassuming Irish lady who bought the Gold Cup winner Mr Mulligan two years ago for a mere £18,000 on behalf of its triumphant owners, Michael and Gerry Worcester. Her very presence at the racecourse was a victory.

She was so nervous on the day before the race that she drank — at a conservative estimate — three bottles of champagne. She then got lost on her way to local lodgings. "We had English navigators," she explained. Yesterday it was strictly water for lunch with champagne only after Mr Mulligan came in.

Settling down

QUIET has fallen upon the nation's stately homes with the announcement that Lady Theresa Manners, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, is to marry. In the mid 1980s, Lady Theresa made news when she was caught *in flagrante* with a young man in a motorway fast lane.



Modern Manners

She then donned tight leather dresses to sing for the upper-crust rock band The Business Connection, while supplementing her income by working in a Chelsea Wharf restaurant. She is to marry a Canadian doctor in June.

- *Sir Edmund Hillary has chosen the coat of arms that will adorn his Knight of the Garter stall in St George's Chapel, Windsor: a limewood carving of a New Zealand kiwi holding an ice-axe.*

P·H·S

CALM AND CONCILIATION

Middle East leaders must use tragedy to lower tensions

The shooting of seven children is numbing under any circumstance. On the first anniversary of the Dunblane massacre, the horrific events on the Israeli-Jordanian border yesterday have even greater resonance here in Britain.

But there in the Midddle East, the motive was politics. Relations between Israel and its neighbours have been fraught since the exchange of letters between King Hussein and Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. When this correspondence is so swiftly followed by the savage actions of a single soldier, it is hard to see mere coincidence. The instinct of many in Israel will have been to regard the King's reference to a "very strong chance of violence" as provocation, not prediction.

That would be understandable but deeply unfair. The King's missive was one more of sorrow than anger. Its dispatch and subsequent deliberate profile have, however, proved unhelpful. There were other and better means in which the same sentiment could have been conveyed.

The manner in which Jordan responded to the outrage yesterday should have gone some way to calm Israeli emotion. No excuses were offered. King Hussein expressed his condolences in strong and sincere terms and then abandoned his scheduled journey to Washington and the White House. The appearance of Crown Prince Hassan at the site of the slaughter reinforced that message. The firm words of the Jordanian Prime Minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti, were fully appropriate to the moment.

These may be symbolic moves; but the Middle East has been short of such symbols recently. The peace process has never been less than complex and convulsive. In the past two weeks a particularly poisonous atmosphere has developed. The challenge for political leaders is to recognise that tragedy will become all too commonplace unless much greater efforts are made to promote conciliation. A critical part of that cause is self-restraint in rhetoric. The decision last month of the Israeli Government to proceed with the construction of 6,500 settlements in east Jerusalem was certainly contentious. But it was not a "declaration of war" as described by some Palestinian figures, nor would it "bury the peace process for all time" as King Hussein's letter suggested.

There are numerous steps each side could take to lower tensions. Yassir Arafat should postpone indefinitely his international meeting planned for this weekend in Gaza. If he will not, those who had accepted invitations to attend should now reconsider. Mr Arafat must also drop his frequent threat to proclaim unilaterally an independent Palestinian state. Such a move truly might bury the peace process. King Hussein could substitute a summit meeting with Mr Netanyahu for his cancelled appointment with President Clinton.

The Israeli leader too has gestures he can make without sacrificing principle. He could abandon plans to close the east Jerusalem offices of four organisations with ties to the Palestinian National Authority. His Government should liberalise the airspace arrangements between Gaza and the West Bank that have so aggrieved King Hussein. The Cabinet might also consider whether the beginning of the much disputed housing project could be delayed for the moment. The formula by which Israel intends to implement the Hebron agreement could be outlined and explained rather better.

None of these measures can mitigate the difficult negotiations that must precede any ultimate agreement. A premature attempt to rush those talks before broader confidence has been built would doom them to failure. An intimate relationship of trust between Israel and Jordan is fundamental to that outcome. Extremists on all sides will — as has again been demonstrated with the blood of innocents — do their utmost to destroy it. Middle East leaders are well aware of that reality. They must moderate their public words, do their best to becalm the political mood, and resume the path of dialogue.

HOLE IN THE BANK

NatWest should listen to the Bank of England

This year, according to City estimates, some £3 billion — equivalent to 0.5 per cent of GDP — will be paid out in bonuses to a small number of bankers, traders and fund managers. This enormous transfer helps to explain the surge in prices of family houses in smart London postal districts and Georgian rectories within weekending distance of the capital. But it also raises worries about whether the structure of bonuses encourages City employees to take dangerous risks with their banks' money.

Yesterday the hole in NatWest's accounts as a result of "mispricing" by an options trader widened from £50 million to £90 million. This loss will be reduced a little because some £8 million of bonuses that have been promised but not yet paid will be withdrawn, and there are £5 million of provisions to set against the losses. But the difference between the £8 million clawed back from employees and the £77 million that shareholders will have to bear shows how unevenly the risk of trading falls on employer and employee.

Indeed, as a recent Bank of England paper on "Remuneration and Risk" points out, bonuses can often act as a perverse incentive on traders. Employees in effect have limited liability: if they lose a lot of their employers' money, the worst that can happen to them is that they have to forgo their bonus and rely on their basic salary alone, or they lose their job. The banks for which they work, however, may have to absorb many millions of pounds of losses.

The "upside" rewards for the employee can be enormous. Profit-linked bonuses are becoming ever more popular. In theory, this should benefit both sides: employees are encouraged to make as much money as possible both for themselves and their firm. In practice, the temptation is to take excessive risks.

The fear of dismissal can also work perversely. If a trader has lost his employer a lot of money, he may decide to take bigger and bigger positions in an attempt to get back to profit. He may feel that he has little to lose and everything to gain by gambling with the bank's capital. After all, he will not be asked to compensate the employer for losses. But he may save his job.

Proper supervision of traders ought to limit the risky positions they can take. But, as a succession of losses has shown, from Barings through to NatWest, managers have often failed to spot problems before they become disasters. In complex derivative markets such as futures, options and swaps, the traders tend to be more knowledgeable than their ultimate bosses. They may succeed in covering up losses by manipulating prices or computer entries without their superiors noticing the irregularities.

Two reforms are clearly needed. First, control systems should be improved so that managers can keep a proper grip on their traders. Secondly, bonus structures need to be more sophisticated: based on more than simple profits, and deferred so that employers can claw back money if losses are made. Instinctively, banks may be reluctant to do anything that could alienate their star traders. But the examples of NatWest and others should make them understand that several good years of profits can be quickly swallowed up by one black hole.

JUSTICE DELAYED

The taxpayer is not getting value from the Law Commission

This Government has not been a legislative laggard. The Home Secretary and Lord Chancellor have been activist ministers determined to overhaul the creaking machinery of the law to serve the citizen better. There is, however, still a paper mountain of unfinished legal business which this Parliament will bequeath its successor and which even the most cautious jurist would consider worth placing on the statute book.

As our Legal Correspondent reports, the Law Commission has produced a steady flow of Bills designed to bring order to the ragged edges of the legal system. Most deserve speedy implementation; all deserve scrutiny. The neglect of the commission's labours does justice, and the taxpayer, a disservice.

The Law Commission is a creation of the Wilson era but governments of every colour have benefited from the work done by its lawyers to bring the law into line with contemporary life. Like Kipling's Tommy Atkins, though, it has been taken for granted save in emergencies. It recommended a change in the law to deal with mortgage fraud in 1994 which was broadly welcomed. Implementation, however, had to wait until after a House of Lords decision in 1996 which drew stark attention to the existing difficulty of prosecuting mortgage fraudsters. The problem was addressed with the Theft (Amendment) Act which became law in December 1996, but by that stage many fraudsters had already eluded justice.

The commission currently has four proposals worthy of speedy scrutiny. It has been waiting since 1993 to see its suggested reform of the law on offences against the person, which is governed by a statute from 1861. Suitably framed, the commission's draft legislation could have been used to prosecute stalkers whom the law has found it difficult to tackle. Proposals to reform the law on manslaughter to allow prosecutions for corporate killing would bring Britain into line with other jurisdictions.

A suggested alteration to the law of contract to confer rights on third parties would smooth commercial life. It could allow a guarantee which covers the sale of one product such as a car to be transferred in turn to a subsequent buyer. Finally, reform of the obscure law on chancel repairs would remove a hidden pitfall in property transactions which can land unwary rural buyers with five-figure bills for the renovation of nearby churches.

The law of unintended consequences may bedevil some of the Law Commission's suggestions. That was certainly the case with their recent family law reforms. But Parliament, once bitten, should not shy away from necessary change. Space should still be cleared by the next government for the undramatic Bills that can make a difference.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Questioning need for enlarged Nato

From Professor Sir Michael Howard

Sir, The Foreign Secretary's apologia for Nato enlargement (article, March 10) is strong on dogmatic assertion but weak on reasoned argument (letters, February 12, 17, 26, March 3, 6).

He states that if Nato were not extended "the countries of Central Europe would fear that Russia was able to reassert its hegemony over them". The same, if true, would apply still more strongly to Finland and the Baltic states. Why are they not seen as initial candidates for admission?

Without extension we would be "creating once again a line down the middle of the map of Europe". With extension we would simply be moving that line a few hundred miles further to the east.

Without enlargement "new regional alliances might spring up". What on earth would be wrong with that — especially if Nato develops, as Mr Rifkind suggests that it will, "a dynamic partnership with countries to its east for practical co-operation and political consultation"?

"Neither the new Nato nor its expansion poses a threat to Russia". That surely is for the Russians to say. After all, we were taught during the Cold War to base our policies on the capabilities of our adversaries rather than their intentions.

To take account of Russian susceptibilities is not to accept their veto over our policies. It is simply to recognise that there can never be stability in Europe unless the Russians feel secure, and to ride roughshod over their susceptibilities is not a very sensible way to guarantee the security of their neighbours to the west.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
The Old Farm,
Eastbury,
Hungerford, Berkshire.
March 10.

From Sir Frank Cooper

Sir, The hard sell for the enlargement of Nato, led by the United States, needs to be challenged and fully debated. There must be no question of being railroaded into it. It is of fundamental importance to Nato's future and our future security.

The Foreign Secretary's article argues that enlarging Nato — a softer, diplomatic word for expanding — is a necessary step in making the whole of Europe as secure as Western Europe. What is the whole of Europe? Does it include all 11 aspirants? What reason is there to believe the present members of Nato will be any more secure? Will enlargement not create new political and military problems and difficulties? What are the ground rules for joining? What is the impact on the Western European Union?

It is essential to know the practical consequences of enlargement. A few questions. Nato works by consensus. Will this continue? Will the sheer size of an enlarged Nato significantly diminish its efficiency? What happens militarily if one nation disagrees with the others? Are the forces of any joining country to be integrated into the command and military force structure, including military headquarters? What about common logistics, supply chains and force inter-operability? Is there to be a collective air defence system? How much will it cost? Who foots the bill?

We must look to the future. Nato was built out of a clearly perceived need and at great but justifiable cost. Surely we now need fewer assertions, more information and more answers before decisions are taken? Let us know what we might be getting into.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK COOPER,
34 Camden Park Road,
Chislehurst, Kent.
March 10.

Liberal Judaism

From Mr Bryan C. Diamond

Sir, Ms Judith Da Fano's remarks about stopping Jewish men from thanking God in their prayers that they are born men rather than women (letter, March 5) should not be directed at any rabbi of a Liberal synagogue.

Since the inception of Liberal Judaism, a feature of our observances has been the equality of women and men, and the prayer to which she objected has never been advocated by any of our leaders and is not included in our liturgy.

From the first meeting called by the Hon Lily Montagu in 1902, it was resolved that a liturgy should be drawn up which contained "only those readings and prayers which combined historic interest with the spiritual needs of the actual worshippers".

The prayer books produced by the Jewish Religious Union, then by the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues all meet this criterion.

Yours sincerely,
BRYAN DIAMOND
(Archivist,
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue),
Flat 2, 80 Fitzjohn's Avenue, NW3.
March 5.

Business letters, page 29

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Doctors' HIV tests 'a waste of time'

From Dr J. K. Oates

Sir, I fear the suggestion in your headline (Medical Briefing, March 8) that all British doctors should "submit" to HIV testing would be a waste of time and money if the object of the exercise is to prevent patients worrying about being infected with HIV by their doctors.

Dr Stuttaford has told us, correctly, that as far as is known, only two examples of this taking place have been verified worldwide, so the actual risks in the UK must be very slight. There are however still going to be some patients who are worried about the risks of acquiring such a deadly disease.

Once a negative test for HIV has been reported on an individual, this can generally be taken as proof that they are free from infection. However, the individual concerned could become infected within days of having blood taken, or have been in the early stage of HIV disease when the standard tests may be negative. To exclude all these eventualities would mean repeated and regular testing of all doctors.

The costs of such an exercise would be considerable and raise many non-medical problems. Overall the situation is very different to hepatitis B which is much commoner than HIV infection and, more importantly, much more infectious.

Furthermore, hepatitis B testing allows protective vaccination to be offered to those found to be lacking in immunity, something which is not yet available in HIV infection.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. OATES,
76 Glengall Road,
Woodford Green, Essex.
March 8.

From Professor Michael W. Adler

Sir, Doctors are at much greater risk of HIV infection from their patients than the other way round.

The call for screening of doctors, be they UK nationals or those coming from high endemic areas, makes people feel good and as if something is being done, but it is illogical and falsely reassuring. It could also lead to the call by doctors for all their patients to be screened, which would be equally misplaced and a huge waste of resources.

The correct way forward is for doctors to adhere to the very clear-cut GMC guidance which requires them, if they suspect or know that they are HIV-infected, to be screened, and put themselves under medical care. An infected healthcare worker would then be required to cease carrying out procedures that may put a patient at risk.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADLER,
University College London
Medical School,
Department of Sexually
Transmitted Diseases,
The Mortimer Market Centre,
Off Capper Street, WC1.
March 10.

Rules of cohabitation

From Mr W. D. Conolly

Sir, Mr Hugh G. Meechan's letter (March 10) defending informal partnership against the formalities of marriage confuses the nature and functions of the State and of society.

The institution of marriage is recognised by the State, which arranges the formalities, as also the legal results of its termination; but it is society which recognises marriage and causes the State to formalise it and its results.

Mr Meechan's "partnership" may well last until ended by the death of one of the parties. The survivor, especially if there are children, will quickly experience the legal consequences of the difference between the two forms of association.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. CONOLLY,
3 The Slade,
Froxfield, Petersfield, Hampshire.
March 10.

From the Archdeacon of Aston

Sir, Contrary to what William Rees-Mogg says ("Stand up for bastards", March 6) the Church of England does recognise the validity of marriages contracted in a register office.

The function of a priest at a church wedding is to act as registrar, to lead prayers for the couple on behalf of the congregation and to invoke God's blessing. The two parties are themselves "ministers of the sacrament" and do not need the presence of a priest to validate their marriage.

Some time ago the Church of England determined to find a way in which, under some circumstances, divorcees could be remarried in church, but it has so far failed to produce an acceptable formula. In the meantime the distinction between marriage and remarriage is made by the legal ceremony taking place in a register office for those marrying after divorce.

Thus the Bishop of Birmingham's decision to marry in a register office and subsequently to take part with his wife in a service of prayer and dedication (report, March 4) accords with the current position of the Church of England.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BARTON,
Diocesan Office,
175 Harborne Park Road,
Harborne, Birmingham.

Devolution debate

From Professor Sir Alan Peacock, FBA

Sir, Sir Harry Hinsley (letter, March 6) is right in stating that the logical solution of the devolution problem is a federal structure, but his assertion that reference has not been made to this obvious consideration in recent years is wrong.

This was the essence of the proposal contained in the Memorandum of Dissent to the Kilbrandon Commission on the Constitution which reported in 1973, presented by the late Lord Crowther-Hunt and myself. Norman Hunt prepared the detailed constitutional proposals and I analysed their economic implications.

However, I must agree with Sir Harry in expressing concern at the consequences of federalism for the overall size of government, which has led me and many like-minded liberals to regard privatisation as at least a partial substitute for devolution. Moreover, the uncertainty of the UK position within the EU introduces an enormous complication in designating the powers of each layer of government.

So far as present constitutional matters are concerned, perhaps a higher priority should be assigned to the problem of the "democratic deficit" created by the erosion of democratic control by the European Commission rather than to that perceived at the grass roots.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN PEACOCK,
146/4 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh.
March 6.

Kurds in Turkey

From the Co-ordinator of the Peace in Kurdistan Campaign, and others

Sir, We write, on International Women's Day, to draw urgent attention to the plight of Leyla Zana, the Kurdish MP sentenced to 15 years' prison by the Turkish Government for speaking about Kurdish rights.

At her trial in a military court in Ankara in 1994 Mrs Zana was "accused" of wearing Kurdish colours in the Turkish Parliament, giving interviews to French television and addressing an American human rights body about the Turkish Government's repression of the Kurds.

At the time of her trial you commented in a leading article (August 4, 1994) that the "prosecution brings to Turkey no credit, highlighting instead the chasm that still separates that country from the Europe to which it aspires". You also expressed the view that the Kurdish question would be the rock on which Turkey's hopes of entry into the European customs union would be dashed.

Regrettably this has not come about. A trade-off between the European Union and Turkey in October, 1995, abrogated Article 8 of Turkey's notorious anti-terror law in return for entry into the customs union. The price of this was the continued incarceration of Mrs Zana and other Kurdish MPs and the intensified repression of the Kurds.

Leyla Zana anticipated this situation, declaring in her letter from Ankara jail (report, September 7, 1994), "it is no longer possible to believe in Turkish justice". We share her belief and, for this reason, demand her immediate release.

Yours faithfully,
ESTELLA SCHMID,
Co-ordinator,
Peace in Kurdistan Campaign,
MARGARET DRABBLE,
ANTONIA FRASER,
LYNNE JONES,
44 Ainger Road, NW3.
March 7.

EU as scapegoat

From Mr Paul Caswell

Sir, Must we continually blame the European Union for absolutely everything ("Judge blames EU ban on caning for juvenile crimes", report, March 8)? Surely this ban derives from the European Court of Human Rights, which has no connection whatever with the EU.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CASWELL,
57 Hanson Drive, Fowey, Cornwall.
March 8.

Royal visits

From Mr John Taylor

Sir, I am surprised at Nicholas Oulton questioning the acceptability of Prince Charles making an official visit to Saudi Arabia (letter, March 11).

We do not live in a perfect world and Saudi Arabia has oil, Israel does not.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TAYLOR,
25 St Lawrence Avenue,
Bidborough, Kent.
March 11.

Right thinking on sinister trend

From Mr Gareth Glyn

Sir, All who applaud the efforts of Christopher Seed (report and leading article, March 10) to develop a piano for left-handed people should spare a thought for millions of right-handed violinists, whose weaker limbs have to cope with some of the most rapid and expressive passages in music. The same goes for all stringed instruments, even including the Welsh triple harp, where the melody is always played by the left hand.

Maybe Mr Seed is concentrating on the wrong instrument.

Yours faithfully,
GARETH GLYN,
Frogwy Fawr,
Llangwyllog, Llangefni, Anglesey.
March 11.

From Mrs J. H. Jacob

Sir, It was not only in the Victorian schoolroom that left-handedness was discouraged.

I started school in 1941. On my first attempt at forming letters in the narrow parallel lines of my writing-book, the pencil was moved from my left to my right hand.

I have been in two minds about the wisdom of this ever since.

Yours faithfully,
SONIA JACOB,
Manor House, Durrington,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
March 10.

From the Reverend John F. Formby

Sir, Your leading article must have been great consolation to sinisters, but it still does not explain why I, along with the 80 per cent of dexters in the population, find that as I hold my toothbrush in my right hand and squeeze my toothpaste onto it with my left hand, the printing on the tube is always upside down.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. FORMBY,
St Bernadette's Catholic Church,
160 Long Lane,
Hillingdon, Middlesex.
March 11.

Something rotten

From Miss Kathryn Dunning

Sir, I am very disappointed that Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet* will not be shown at cinemas within a reasonable distance of my home. I had hoped that I might see it with a group of friends, but we have contacted cinemas in the nearby cities of Hull, York and Leeds, none of which will be showing it.

Why is this? Do the cinema executives think that those of us living in the North are completely ignorant and afraid of culture? If so, they are wrong; or do they more probably think it is not financially worthwhile? This again is disappointing; surely they should try to support British films.

Yours faithfully,
KATHRYN DUNNING,
The Rectory, West Street,
Leven, Beverley, Humberside.

Do as you say . . .

From Mrs Sheila Rowley

Sir, Lord McAlpine says of Margaret Thatcher (Features, March 3, except Scottish edition):

> While she may disagree with an individual profoundly, I have never heard her say a word to the personal detriment of even her most virulent enemies.

How offensively he fails to follow his heroine's example.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA ROWLEY,
Tanronen, Lurks Lane,
Pitchcombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Parking in The Mall

From Mrs Max Taylor

Sir, It is splendid news that Horse Guards Parade will no longer be used as a car park (report and photograph, March 7). How disappointing though, that the cars will be shifted to the side of The Mall. London is being choked by traffic. Why do civil servants need private parking on public land?

Yours faithfully,
CICELY TAYLOR,
44 Northumberland Place, W2.
March 7.

Surname usage

From Mr Tony Gray

Sir, Persons who corresponded with Jerome K. Jerome (or for that matter Ford Madox Ford) were relieved of the problem of having to decide whether to use Christian name or surname (letters, March 8, etc), as the following verse of unknown origin neatly illustrates.

Said Jerome K. Jerome to Ford Madox Ford,
"There is something old boy, that I've always abhorred;
When people address me and call me Jerome
Are they being standoffish, or too much at home?"
Said Ford, "I agree: It's the same thing with me".

Yours faithfully,
A. A. GRAY (Honorary Secretary),
Jerome K. Jerome Society,
c/o Fraser Wood, Mayo and Pinson,
15 Lichfield Street,
Walsall, West Midlands.
March 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 13: Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was received by The Queen.

Her Excellency Mrs Eva Nowotny was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Austria to the Court of St James's.

Mr Nowotny was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

His Excellency Señor Andrés Rozental and Señora Rozental were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the United Mexican States to the Court of St James's.

The following were received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr Christopher Battiscombe (the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), Mr François Gordon (the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria), Mr David Snoxell (the Republic of Senegal) and Mr Richard Wilkinson (the Republic of Venezuela).

Mrs Battiscombe, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Snoxell and Mrs Wilkinson were also received by The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, this morning called on the Governor of Okinawa and afterwards gave a Press Conference for World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later His Royal Highness attended a Luncheon given by the Governor of Okinawa at the Harbourview Hotel.

This afternoon The Duke of Edinburgh departed from Okinawa for Tokyo.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 13: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Oman.

Mrs William Nunneley and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 13: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning opened Carodan Terrain Limited, Aylesford, Kent and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent (Lord Kingsdown).

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Kent Training and Enterprise Council's new building, Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent.

The Duke of Kent, Trustee, this evening attended the Science Museum annual dinner, Exhibition Road, London SW7.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 13: Princess Alexandra, President, this morning visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop at 130 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.

Birthdays today

Sir Kenneth Alexander, former Vice-Chancellor, Stirling University, 75; Miss Pam Ayres, poet, 50; Professor Sir Michael Berry, FRS, physicist, 56; Mr Ian Bruce, MP, 50; Mr Michael Caine, actor, 64; Mr Jasper Carrott, comedian, 52; Mr Billy Crystal, actor and comedian, 50; Professor Sir Colin Dollery, professor of medicine, 66; Mr Alan Elliott, former Chief Constable, Cumbria, 55; Mr John Elton, company director, 73; Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Graham, 60; the Earl of Halifax, 53; Sir Philip Holland, former MP, 80; Mr Tom Iremonger, former MP, 81; Lord Keyes, 78; Sir Gavin Laird, trade unionist, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe, 75; Mr John McCallum, actor, 79; Lord Marsh, 69; Sir Eric Norris, diplomat, 79; Mr Bill Owen, actor, 82; Sir Richard Parsons, diplomat, 69; Dame Betty Paterson, former chairman, NW Thames Regional Health Authority, 81; General Paul Rader (Salvation Army), 63; Miss Tessa Sanderson, athlete and broadcaster, 41; Mr W.M. Sillery, Headmaster, Belfast Royal Academy, 56; Mr A.D. Smith, President, Magdalen College, Oxford, 59; Miss Rita Tushingham, actress, 55.

Church news

Appointments include:
The Rev John Skinner, Curate, St Michael, Huyton: to be Priest-in-charge, St John the Divine, Fairfield (Liverpool).
The Rev Beverley Stark, Assistant Curate, Bulwell St John: to be Team Vicar, Emmanuel and St Mark, Bestwood Team Ministry (Southwell).
The Rev Michael Starkey, Assistant Curate, St John the Evangelist, Brownswood Park (London): to be priest-in-charge of that parish.
The Rev Paul Stephens, Curate, South Moulton group: to be Rector, Norton Fitzwarren, and Anglican Chaplain at St Augustine of Canterbury Voluntary Aided Secondary School, Taunton (Bath & Wells).
The Rev Andrew Tyler, formerly NSM, St Andrew's, Caversham (Oxford): to be Priest-in-charge, St Giles, Norwich.
The Rev Brenda Wallace, curate, united benefice of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham: to be curate, Hutton All Saints' with St Peter (Chelmsford).

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Reed's School, Cobham, Surrey, at 3.15.

The Duke of York, as Patron of the Badminton Association of England, will attend the All England Badminton Championships at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, at 7.15.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will give a reception at Buckingham Palace at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit John Scott Nichol, Old Station Close, Shepshead, Loughborough, at 10.35; will visit Paul James Knitwear, Hill Street, Barwell, Leicester; 11.35; will visit Leicester General Hospital to open the new radiology department at Gwendolen Road at 12.55; and will open a new area police station at Keyham Lane, Hamilton, Leicestershire, at 2.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the Year of Engineering Success, will attend the launch of the National Week of Science Engineering and Technology at Imperial College at 10.30.

Lectures

The Bristol Society
The Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Sir John Wills, Bt, and the High Sheriff of Bristol, Mr George Ferguson, were present at a lecture given for the Society by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Con, at The Council House last night. Mr St John Hartnell, Chairman of the Society, presided and Mr Peter Wood, of Allied Domecq Plc, gave a vote of thanks. Allied Domecq Plc hosted a supper afterwards.

Marketors' Company
The Marketors' Company annual City Lecture was delivered by Sir Mark Weinberg last night at Chartered Accountants' Hall. Mr David Thomas, Master, presided. Mr David Kaye, Dean of the City University Business School, also spoke.

Dinners

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was the host at a dinner held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street in honour of Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General of Saudi Arabia. The other guests were:
Dr Musa'id bin Mohammed Al-Alban, Abdulrahman Al-Mansouri, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Major-General Nasser A Al-Arfaj, Major-General Abdulrahman Al-Benayan, Prince Faisal bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Prince Faisal bin Saud bin Mohammed Al Saud, Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalid bin Hethleen, Dr Ali Al-Najee, Major-General Ahmed Lafih Al-Ablani, Brigadier-General Ibrahim M A Al-Amro, Brigadier-General Dakeellah A Al-Wagdani, Brigadier-General Mohammed A Mizyad, Colonel Sulaiman N S Al-Malik, Captain Nasser M Al-Joumha, Colonel Abdullah Saad Mohammed Al-Gherairi, Dr Mohammed Al-Husseiny, Brigadier-General Abdulmohsen Hamad Al-Bassam, Dr Abdullah Al Nasser, Dr Ali Al-Ghamdi, Mr Hamed Al-Majed.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, the Hon William Waldegrave, MP, the Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, Mr James Arbuthnot, MP, Mr Richard Page, MP, Lord Carrington, KG, CH, Lord Prior, Lord Wakeham, Lord King of Wartnaby, Mr Jonathan Aitken, MP, Mr Eddie George, Sir James Craig, Sir Alan Munro, Sir Colin Chandler, Sir Ralph Robins, Sir David Lees, Sir Christopher Bland, Sir Richard Evans, Mr Menzies Campbell, QC, MP, Mr Michael Colvin, MP, Mr Tim Smith, MP, Mr Graham Greene, Mr Mark Moody-Stewart, Mr Stewart Purvis, Mr Peter Stothard, Mr Keith Wiseman, Dr Farhan Nizami, Professor R A McNeill Alexander, Mr Michael Field, Mr Edward Mortimer, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, Lieutenant-General Sir John Foley, Mr Andrew Green, Mr John Shepherd, Mr Charles Masefield, Mr John Ward, MP, Lord McColl, Mr John Holmes and Mr Philip Barton.

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Miss Melissa Cork, gave a dinner last night at the Mansion House in honour of the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of City Livery Companies and their ladies. Some Members of the Court of Aldermen, the Sheriffs, the Chief Commoner and some members of the Court of Common Council and High Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts attended.

The Lord Mayor, the Master of the Mercers' Company and the Master of the Grocers' Company were the speakers. Among others present were:
Air Commodore the Hon Sir Peter and Lady Vanneck, Sir Greville and Lady Spratt, the Dean of St Paul's, the Master and Mistress Cutler in Hallamshire, Mr and Mrs Christopher Ballenden, Mr Peter Forrester, Mr and Mrs John Howard and Mr David Watt.

Anchorites
Commodore A.D. Barrett, President of the Anchorites, presided at the monthly dinner held last night at the Café Royal. Mr Peter Ford, Chairman of London Transport, was the principal guest.

Cranfield University
The Duke of Kent, Visitor, presided at a dinner held on Wednesday after the Annual Meeting of the Court of Cranfield University. Lord Kings Norton, who had earlier announced his retirement as Chancellor after 27 years in office, was the guest of honour.

Service dinner

RN College Greenwich
Commander J.M.C. Maughan, Commander of the Royal Naval College Greenwich, presided at a mess guest night dinner held yesterday at the college. Mr Harold "Dickie" Bird was the principal guest.

Reception

British Chamber of Commerce for Italy
The Italian Ambassador was the guest of honour at the inaugural reception of the London branch of the British Chamber of Commerce for Italy held last night in Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament. Mr David Ashby, MP, was the host.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr Russel Simon William Ferguson Tonking to be a Circuit Judge. He will be assigned to the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

ROBERT PRATTA

Princess Caroline of Monaco touring Lyons yesterday

Forthcoming marriages

Major N.G.C. Strachwitz Hamilton and Miss J.H. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Strachwitz Hamilton, of Dorset, and Jessica, younger daughter of the Hon Geoffrey and Mrs Wilson, of Hampshire.

Mr J.J. Robertson and Mrs R.S. Lowe
The engagement is announced between Jollyon, second son of the late Major Ian McKay Robertson and of the Hon Mrs Robertson, of Donhead St Mary, Wiltshire, and Rosamund, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Evans, of Payhembury, Devon.

Mr G.H. Bennett and Miss C.A. Besser
The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Mr Dudley Bennett, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Mrs Susan Leighton, of Bisley, Gloucestershire, and Carin, eldest daughter of Mr Robert Besser, of Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles, and Mrs Sandy Besser, of Santa Monica, Los Angeles.

Mr R.R.A. Bott and Miss S.L.P. Conner
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Harry Bott, of Benington Lordship, Hertfordshire, and Susanna, second daughter of Mr Laurie Conner, of Redlap, Devon, and Mrs John Pilley, of Trotton, Hampshire.

Mr G.P. Corr and Miss S.A.M. Hartnell
The engagement is announced between Gavin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Corr, of Sutton, Dublin, and Sophie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs St John Hartnell, of Cameley, Bristol.

Mr D.R.N. Ely and Miss T.A. Ladbrooke
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs R. Ely, of East Hagbourne, Oxfordshire, and Tasha, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Ladbrooke, of Rilla Mill, Cornwall.

Mr M.W.J. Hawes and Miss E.M. Lockwood
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Hawes, of Woodsedge, Copthorne, Sussex, and Eloise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Lockwood, of Barefoot House, Bramley, Hampshire.

Mr R.K. Hillyer and Miss A.J. Angles
The engagement is announced between Roger, only son of Mr and Mrs Keith Hillyer, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Alison, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Angles, of Dedham, Essex.

Mr N.R. Deeks and Miss H. Evans
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs John Deeks, of Oxted, Surrey, and Heather, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Evans, of Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

***Mr D. Gestetner* and Miss A. Cohen**
The engagement is announced between Daniel, elder son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Gestetner, and Amanda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Cohen.

Mr C.J. Reay and Miss J. O'Mahony
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Major and Mrs Denis Reay, of Malvern, Worcestershire, and Juliet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas O'Mahony, of Athlone, County Westmeath.

Mr N.J.D. Rena and Miss R.F. Broughton
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Oliver Rena, of Maida Avenue, London, and Rachael, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Broughton, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

Mr P.M.K. Russell and Miss S.M.S. Ashdown
The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of Mr and Mrs Rodney Russell, of South Chailey, East Sussex, and Sophia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Ashdown, of Lindfield, West Sussex.

Mr M. Shaw and Miss D. Cooper
The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Shaw, of Cheam, Surrey, and Deborah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Cooper, of Rayleigh, Essex.

Mr A. Stevens and Miss E.J. King
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Stevens, of Lechlade, Gloucestershire, and Esther Jane, elder daughter of Mrs Marion King and the late Mr Timothy King, of Melrose, Roxburghshire.

Mr J.K. Stretton and Miss A. Rutherfurd
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Keith Stretton, of Nab Wood, West Yorkshire, and Alison, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rutherfurd, of Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Lieutenant R.J. Taylor, RN, and Dr J.J. Baden Fuller
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr D.J. Taylor, of Barrow upon Humber, and Mrs A. Hardman, of Hessle, East Yorkshire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.T. Baden Fuller, of Upton Scudamore, Wiltshire.

Memorial services

Sir Basil Nield
The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr Hugh Jones at a memorial service for Sir Basil Edward Nield, a Master of the Bench and Past Treasurer of the Inner Temple, held on Wednesday at The Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of The Temple, officiated.

Sir Anthony Hidden read the lesson and Mr Simon Finch, great nephew, read from John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Sir Patrick Russell gave an address.

The Lord Chief Justice, the President of the Family Division and the Recorder of London attended. Among others present were:
Mrs Ann Finch, Mrs Simon Finch, Jack Finch, Mr Mark Finch; Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lady Russell of Killowen, Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC, Lady Russell, Lord Justice Thorpe, Lord Justice Otton, Lord Justice and Lady Rose, Lord Justice Nourse, Sir John and the Hon Lady Stephenson, the Hon Mrs Sykes, Helen Lady Delves Broughton.

Mr Justice Ebsworth, Mr Justice Popplewell, Mr Justice Turner, Mrs Justice Steel, Mr Justice and Lady Evans-Lombe, Mr Justice Morland, Mr Justice Kay, Mr Justice Alliott, Mr Justice Curtis, Mr Justice and Lady French, Sir Robert Jennings, QC, and Lady Jennings, Air Chief Marshal Sir John and Lady Aiken, Master Robert Speed, Sir William Stabb, QC, and Lady Stabb.

Sir Barry Sheen, Sir Reginald and Lady Bennett, Lady Cobb, Sir Ralph and Lady Kilner Brown, Sir Kenneth and Lady Hollings, Sir Cecil Clothier, QC, and Lady Clothier, Sir Godfray Le Quesne, QC, Sir William van Straubenzee, Mr Joseph Butler-Sloss and Lady Justice Butler-Sloss (also representing the Treasurer of the Inner Temple), Dr A N Burstein and Dame Rose Heilbron, Mr Petre Crowder, QC, and the Hon Mrs Crowder.

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Leicester, Mrs J Robinson, Master Tennant, Judge (Charles) Jones, Judge Gerald Gordon, Judge Simmonds, Judge P R Simpson, Judge David Clarke, QC, Judge Pownall, Judge Aglionby, His Honour James Scarlett, His Honour Alan Booth, QC, His Honour David Lloyd Jones, Mr Benet Hytner, QC, Mr Brian Leveson, QC, Mr Martin Collins, QC.

Mr Michael Sayers, QC, Miss Anna Worrall, QC, Mr William Glover, QC, Mr David Barker, QC, Mr Peter Boydell, QC, Mr F Ashe Lincoln, QC, and Mrs Ashe Lincoln, Mr John Deby, QC, Mr Edward Nugee, QC, Mr Jonathan Rayner James, QC, Mr Graeme Williams, QC, Mr Keith Goddard, QC, Mr Hume Boggis-Rolfe, Mr and Mrs Roger Davies, Mr and Mrs David Johnson, Mr Florence O'Donoghue, Mr Peter D Post, Canon C Deedes, Mr Angus Nicol, Mr John Hignett.

Mr Richard Henriques, QC, (Leader of the Northern Circuit), Mr John Franklin Willmer, QC, and Mr and Mrs Alastair Stewart-Richardson (7 King's Bench Walk), Mr Gerald F Bowden (Magdalen College, Oxford), Miss Carol Ellis, QC, *(The Law Reports)*, Mr James Nesbitt Hull (Weightmans Solicitors, Liverpool), and many other friends and former colleagues.

The Dowager Lady Mancroft regrets that due to an indisposition she was unable to be present at the memorial service for Sir Basil Nield on Wednesday.

Mr Bill Bedford
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Bill Bedford, former test pilot and aerospace consultant, was held yesterday at the Church of St Clement Danes, Strand. The Rev Peter Bishop, resident chaplain, officiated and the Ven P.R. Turner, Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF, led the prayers.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns and Major-General T. Anderson, USMC, Vice-Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, read the lessons. Rear-Admiral T.W. Loughran, Flag Officer Naval Aviation, read *Flight* by Brian Young.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Military Adviser, British Aerospace, gave an address.

Among others present were:
Mrs Bedford (widow), Group Captain and Mrs Peter Bedford (son and daughter-in-law), Mr Nicholas Bedford (grandson), Mr and Mrs L Bedford (brother and sister-in-law), Captain M G Averill (brother-in-law), Mrs B Barwell, Mr O Bedford, Ms H Bedford, Mr A Bedford, Mrs O M Bedford, Mrs S Allen, Mrs D Hofso, Miss F Court, Mrs P Worrall.

Marshal of the RAF Sir Denis Spotswood, Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael Beetham, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon (Chief of the Air Staff), Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire and Lady Cheshire, Lady Hine, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken (representing RAFA), Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas and Lady Lowe, Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin (RAF Benevolent Fund), Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans, Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Smallwood, Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil and Lady Wheeler, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Wilson, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough (representing Air League), Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey (RAF History Society), Sir Richard Evans (chief executive, British Aerospace), Sir Peter Masefield, Sir Colin Chandler (Vickers), Sir Robert Lickley.

The Mayor of Elmbridge, Mr D Lockspeiser, Mr D Morgan, Air Commodore J Sowrey, Dr D Stinton, Mr B Trubshaw, Mr Peter Twiss, Mr Russ Cumberland, Mr F W Day, Mrs L Fassan, Mr R Hayhoe, Mrs H Hunter, Mr T H Kerr, Mr [illegible] Koops, Ms Ruth Lynn, Mr D Manning, Mr B Myles, Mr D Purcell, Mr D Radford, Mr David Rolfe, Mr R Baxter, Mr John Sanderson, Mr Eric Sperling, Wing Commander M J Stokes, Mr C Thyer, Mrs Pat Tindell, Mr P Trimingham, Mr H Whitney, Mrs [illegible] Wood and representatives of *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, Putnam Aero Books, No 1 Group, Logistics Command, 11/18 Group, 899 Naval Air Squadron, the Royal Aeronautical Society, Bograts United, the Swiss Air Force, 20 Squadron, Wittering, Hawker Siddeley, the Red Arrows, 54 Squadron, Rolls-Royce, Lasham Gliding Society, the Central Flying School, Osprey Aero Club, GEC Avionics, Wingspan Network USA, the American Navy, and many other friends and organisations in the United Kingdom and Overseas.

After the service there was a flypast of 4 Harrier aircraft of 20 (R) Squadron, RAF Wittering.

Sir Hugh Willatt
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Hugh Willatt, former Secretary-General of the Arts Council, was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Very Rev David Elliott officiated.

Mr T.F.S. Scott read the lesson. Miss Constance Cummings read Sir Henry Wotton's *The Character of a Happy Life* and the Earl of Gowrie, Chairman of the Arts Council, read *You that love England* by Cecil Day Lewis. Sir Angus Stirling gave an address.

Sir Joshua Rowley, Bt
A memorial service for Sir Joshua Rowley, Bt, will be held in the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, on Friday, April 25, 1997, at noon. Tickets may be applied for from The Suffolk Lieutenancy Office, County Hall, Ipswich, IP4 2JS by April 4.

John Barber
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr John Barber will take place on Sunday, May 4, at 2.30pm in Oakham Parish Church.

Calls to the Bar

Calls to the Bar this Hilary Term:

Lincoln's Inn
H M McLean, London WC2; C Mitropoulos, London W3; L R Patterson, Kenton, Middlesex; G A Jameson, Scarcroft, West Yorkshire; F A Qazi, Chiniot, Jhang, Pakistan; A M Maclaren, Worcester; S Farazi, Canterbury, Kent; J E A Edwards, Swinton, Manchester; M Lee, London SW16; P W B Harrison, Stoke on Trent; Md N Haque, Sreenogore, Bangladesh; M-D Theodorides, Nicosia; L A Husain, London W2; J M Farren, London SW19; D M Best, Wallasey, Merseyside; E T S Fung, London NW8; C-J Pang, Singapore; S Mathurasingh, London N18; W C N B Amako, London NW2; C J Han, Johor, Malaysia; A J Akosile, Lagos, Nigeria; M Ali, Rochdale, Gtr Manchester; J F Lennon, Ramsgate, Kent; G W Meyrick, Christchurch, Dorset; E A S Kerr, Sittingbourne, Kent; J J Morris, Romsey, Hampshire; U Akram, Holcombe Brook, Bury; J M Callan, London N17; S P Dawson, Ipswich, Suffolk; M K Lewin, Bermuda; A Hurhanger, Mauritius; J Leasor, Enfield, Middlesex; A Sachdeva, London NW6; P C Asplin, Horfield, Bristol; A M Healy, Leicester; C J S Rendell-Reynolds, Cullompton, Devon; H E Staley, Ilkeston, Derbyshire; Ai Seok S Tan, Singapore; C H Aherne, Belfast; T D Price, London W3; T J Pomeroy, London SE10; K T Stephen, St Lucia, West Indies; Sk J K Jabbar, Cardiff; N Yousef, Isleworth, Middlesex; A Yew, London N20; I Mahmud, Bangladesh; S J Melvin, Bahamas; I Bascoe, London SE24; Y HJ Mat, Melaka, Malaysia.

Inner Temple
R N Wrack, London SE5; P G Cusworth, Chelmsford, Essex; J S Crofts, Woodford Green, Essex; S Spencer, Wimbledon, London SW19; L W Smith, Cannock, Staffordshire; C J Armstrong, Stoke-on-Trent; L Hazarika, Mitcham, Surrey; K Farmer, London SW1; G Harrison, Bedlington, Northumberland; H C Milburn, Clapham, London SW4; J Lawless, Tottenham, London N17; L R Phillips, Prestwick, Manchester; C L C De Azevedo, London EC1; S L Ashcroft, Hale, Cheshire; L Esmail, Wembley Middlesex; F Karim, Leicester; L M Hindle, Longtramlington, Northumberland; C O Harrison, Alton, Hants; S J Vine, London WC1.
In absentia: S M Orange, London SW6; U L Burnham, Notting Hill, London W11.

Middle Temple
E A O'Malley, Woodford Green, Essex; E Thompson, Clapham, London, SW11; W A Cook, London W2; D C Fountain, Clitheroe, Lancashire; J C Van Den Broek, Blackheath, London SE3; E P Bottrell, Witham, Essex; J D Upton, London NW1; S M Barry, London SW9; C M Donnelly, London NW5; R A Chapman, Warrington, Cheshire; H M Waller, South Wirral; H N A Gore, London SW10; S D Crown, London NW8; Z V Lane-Smith, London SW2; D M Lee, St Ann, Jamaica; T D Treuherz, Manchester; J Vallejo, Bow, London E3; C M Gray, London SW7; L J Yeats, Gibraltar; J T D Maugham, London WC2; G F T Compton, Herne Hill, London SE24; N J Downey, Widnes, Cheshire; L R Humby, Wood Green, London N22; C G H Snell; London NW1; M A L Tan, Singapore; A G Schofield, St John's Wood, London NW8; S J Rodriguez, Gibraltar; C S H Frias, Portugal; K J McIntyre, London N1; S Haji, London W5; P C Lee, Hong Kong; M Callery, Sale, Cheshire.

Gray's Inn
M A J O'Donnell, Finchley, London; S G E Goh, Singapore; P C Laleng, Whitstable, Kent; J Collins, Barrow-in-Furness; J B Lowndes, Jordanstown, N Ireland; T M Harrington, Kingswinford; F H Currie, Pensax; M Y Perkins, Meldreth; A J B Western, Houghton; R K S Inyundo, Chiswick, London; A M Wooding, Gunton; E B Simmons, Bermuda; M A Zafer, Bangladesh; B A Lowans, Corbridge; H Ali, Manchester; E M Atkinson, Kenilworth; W M C Healing, Clapham, London; A K M F Islam, Bangladesh; M Culling, Cambridge; D Wooldridge, Kingswinford; C J Buckley, Oldham; L S Colley, Lichfield; R J Maitland, Cramlington; P J Taggart, Armagh, N Ireland; M P Jones, Kensington, London; E L Keelan, Ynysybwl; D Griffiths, Cardiff; M J R Ashcroft, Brondesbury Park, London; L J C Selby, Hove; J P Hill, Stockport; N J G Lane, Chiswick, London; M S Sinha, Swansea; R J Tanner, Southsea; V J Apfel, Cleveleys; M E Latter, Stanmore; S Gerrard, Bolton; M W Smith, Manchester; D J Duffy, Kirkburton; R Wadge, Whitley Bay; Z Riaz, Pakistan; B S Duncanson, Turks and Caicos Iss; M Z Hasan, Bangladesh.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Johann Strauss the elder, violinist and composer, Vienna, 1804; Isabella Beeton, author of *The Book of Household Management*, London, 1836; Sir Thomas Lauder Brunton, physician, Hiltonshill, Roxburghshire, 1844; Umberto I, King of Italy 1878-1900, Turin, 1844; Paul Ehrlich, biochemist, Strohlen, Silesia (Strezelin, Poland), 1854; Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate 1921, Ulm, Germany, 1879.

DEATHS: George Wade, field marshal and roadbuilder, London, 1748; John Byng, admiral, executed on board *Monarque* in Portsmouth Harbour for failing to relieve Minorca, 1757; Friedrich Klopstock, poet, Hamburg, 1803; John Jervis, Earl of St Vincent, Admiral of the Fleet, Essex, 1823; George Papworth, architect, Dublin, 1855; Louis Antoine Jullien, composer, Paris, 1860; Karl Marx, social, political and economic theorist, London, 1883; Henri Kock, novelist and dramatist, 1892; George Eastman, pioneer of photography, Rochester, New York, 1932; Nikolai Bukharin, journalist and politician, executed, Moscow, 1938; Busby Berkeley, choreographer, California, 1976; Sir Huw Wheldon, broadcaster, London, 1986; Zita, former Empress of Austria, 1989.

The Mikado, by Gilbert and Sullivan, was first performed at the Savoy Theatre, London, 1885.

The first submarine telephone line was laid across the English Channel, 1891.

The German cruiser *Dresden* was sunk, 1915.

The New English Bible (New Testament) was published, 1961.

University news

Cambridge
Sir David Harrison, Master of Selwyn College since 1994, has been appointed the university's second Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

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PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

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FAX: 0171 481 9313

All this confirms for us the message of the prophets, to which you will do well to attend; it will go on shining like a lamp in a murky place, until day breaks and the morning star rises to illuminate your minds. 2 Peter 1 : 19

BIRTHS

BENSON - On 25th February, to Grace (née O'Connor) and Mark, a daughter, Katharine Margaret, a sister for Edward.

BRUCE - On March 6th, to Victoria (née Ramsden) and Adam, a son, Angus.

BURBIDGE - On 10th March 1997, to Mark and Louise, a son, Skyler Louie, a brother for Timo and Keir.

CONNELLAN - On March 10th 1997, to Ruth (née Cain) and David, a daughter, Beth Kathryn.

CORSI - On 3rd March 1997 at Dallas, Texas, to Antonia (née Lavers) and Marco, a daughter, Cristina Clare.

GEIKIE-COBB - On March 1st, to Mary-Anne (née Clarke) and Peter, a daughter, Sophie Louise.

GREEN - On 1st March at Hamilton, Ontario, to Josie (née Bonanno) and Charles, a son, Daniel Gregory John.

HOPETOUN - On March 11th, to Skye, wife of the Earl of Hopetoun, a daughter, Olivia Rose.

PHILIPS - On March 7th, to Janet (née Markham) and Harry, a son, Freddie.

POUNTNEY - On March 11th, to Elizabeth (née Kimberley) and Mark, a son, Edward Pascal Charles.

RUSSELL STONEHAM - Abigail Imogen. Born 24th February 1997 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital. A sister for William Maclachlan (also first time advertised) born 10th October 1994 to forgetful parents, Mark and Hayley.

BIRTHS

RUTHERFORD-BROWNE - On February 26th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Jane Chantal (née Rickards) and Tim, a son, Oscar Frederick, a brother for Theo.

SOWAH - On 8th March 1997 at The Royal Free Hampstead to Roma (née Edoo) and Gerald, a daughter, Mareshah Naa Adjoley.

TURNER - On March 6th, to Philippa (née Bowler) and Michael, a daughter, Olivia Rose, a sister for Isabella.

WALTON - On 7th March 1997 in Warwick, to Alicia and Roland, a son, Theodore St. George.

DEATHS

ADAMS - Rev. Arthur White, D.D. on 11th March 1997 at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford. Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford since 1949; Dean of Divinity 1949-1975 aged 84. Beloved husband of Joyce, father of Jane, Sarah, Elizabeth and David. Funeral at St Cross Church, Oxford on Tuesday 18th March 1997 at 2 pm followed by Private Cremation. Family flowers only.

BERRILL - Doreen Elizabeth on March 11th, 1997, aged 91. Wife of the late Adrian Berrill and mother of Dinah Kennedy and the late Susan Cox. Requiem Mass at the Holy Ghost Church, Basingstoke 20th March at 11 am. No flowers please. Donations to the Alzheimers Disease Society, Basingstoke & District Branch c/o Spencer & Peyton, tel: (01256) 23165.

BROWNING - Robert died peacefully in the Royal Free Hospital on 11th March. Funeral to take place on Thursday 20th March 1 pm Golders Green Crematorium. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon (0171) 794-3535.

DEATHS

CANG - Anna Bela. On 12th March 1997, at Dolgellau Hospital, N. Wales, aged 91. Daughter of Dr. Jacob and Emilia Cynberg of Lublin, sister of Dora and Stefanie, sister-in-law of Josef Lipianski and of Dr. Wladislaw Ney, widow of Joel Cang, truly loved mother of Stephen, mother-in-law of Jennifer, grandmother of Matthew, Joseph and Gilbert. Cremation 3.45 pm Wednesday, 19th March at Golders Green.

COLLINS - Dennis aged 73 on Wednesday 12th March peacefully at home. Much loved husband of Eileen, dearest father to Penny, Duncan and Claire, loved father-in-law and grandfather. Funeral at Caversham Crematorium, near Reading, on Monday 17th March at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but if desired donations to a charity of your choice.

DEVEREUX - James Patrick, British Airways (ret'd), beloved father of Christopher and Caroline, precious husband to Theodora, father-in-law to Linda and Dominic, devoted grandfather to David James, Edward and Monique, passed away gently Monday 10th March 11.46 pm. We will miss you eternally. Funeral St Joseph's R.C. Church, Monday 17th March at 11am (St Patrick's Day), Maidenhead, Berkshire.

DUDLEY EDWARDS - On 11th March 1997, Aileen, aged 96, suddenly but peacefully at The Old Rectory, Ewhurst, Surrey. Much loved sister of Gladys Parkinson. A wonderful friend and inspiration to all who knew her. Funeral Service at 2.30pm, on Friday 21st March, at The Church of St Nicholas, Compton, Surrey. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, for the benefit of The Church of St Nicholas, c/o Robert Ayling, 25/27 South Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6NY. Tel: 01483 567333.

GOODWIN - Rev. Dr. Deryck William, of Thornton-le-Dale, peacefully at St Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough, on 11th March 1997 after a long courageous fight against cancer, aged 69 years. Dearly beloved husband of Joyce (née Lumley), nephew of Evelyn Yates. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Malton, on Tuesday 18th March at 11 am. Burial at Ellerburn at 2 pm. Family flowers only please but donations to St Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough or St Michael's Church, Malton.

GOSLING - Kenneth Frank suddenly in hospital on 8th March 1997 aged 68 years, beloved husband of Hazel and father of Anthony. Funeral Service Monday 17th March 1997 at Barham Crematorium at 12.30 pm. Flowers or donations to the British Heart Foundation c/o C.W. Lyons & Son Ltd, 53 Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, tel: (01227) 272375.

HERRERA-LOW - George Frederick, on 23rd February, 1997, aged 85. Beloved husband of Thérèse. Burial has already taken place. All enquiries to Davis Gregory solicitors, 25 Rodney Road, Cheltenham, GL50 1HX. R.I.P.

JENKINS - Margaret on 9th March amongst friends. Beloved mother of Annabel, devoted granny to William, Elizabeth and Thomas, darling sister of Mary and Christopher. Much missed by all relatives and friends. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at noon on Friday 21st March at St Lawrence, Effingham, and a reception afterwards at the church hall.

JOHN - Anthony Tyrrell late of 5 Charlwood House, 47 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London who died on Friday 7th March. Cremation at Mortlake Crematorium at 4.30 pm Monday 17th March 1997.

KRARUP - (Formerly Weller). On March 11th 1997, peacefully in Sidmouth Hospital, Mary April Krarup aged 84 years. Funeral Service at Ottery St Mary Cemetery on Tuesday March 18th at 12.15 pm. Flowers to Potbury's Chapel of Rest, Sidmouth, please.

LAWRENCE - Michael Loveland M.C. on Tuesday March 11th aged 78, peacefully at home. Devoted husband of Joan, loving father of Richard, Rose, Peter and Sara and much loved grandfather. Thanksgiving Service at Patrixbourne Church, 2 pm Wednesday March 19th. Family flowers only. Donations to the Marie Curie Foundation.

MELLOR - Lady Alix Marie of Smallfield, much loved widow of Sir John Mellor, passed away at home on 11th March aged 72 years. The funeral is Monday 24th March 2.30 pm at Streatham Park Cemetery Chapel, followed by burial. Any enquiries to Ballard & Shortall on (01293) 820377.

LOYD - On March 12th 1997 Rosemary Joan (Rosie), beloved wife of Peter and much loved stepmother of Julie and William, mother of Tony and Sophie and granny to Chloe and Kate. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Church Row, Hampstead, NW3, on Friday March 21st at 12 noon, followed by private cremation. No flowers please but donations if desired to the Edenhall Marie Curie Centre, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, NW3 5NS.

PICKLES - Helen Rosemary (née Chivers) suddenly on March 11th 1997 in hospital, wife of the late Edward Henry, dearly loved mother of David and Suzie and devoted grandmother of Kate and William. Funeral Service at St Mark's Church, Newnham, Cambridge, on Friday March 21st at 11.30am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Addenbrookes Charities, J. Farmer, I.C.U., c/o Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge.

STERN - Walter on March 12th peacefully at home aged 91. Much loved husband of Gerda and devoted father of Nigel, Angela and Rosemary. Cremation private.

THOMPSON - Peter, of Bloxham, Oxon., peacefully on March 12th. Husband of Diana (née Ellis).

WALKER-MORRIS - On Tuesday 11th March 1997 at home, James, in his 90th year, beloved husband of Audrey, father of Timothy and brother of Jock and Kika. Funeral Service at Mintlyn Crematorium, King's Lynn, on Thursday 20th March at 2.30pm. Family flowers only may be sent c/o E.W. Witton, Funeral Director, 26 Station Road, Heacham, tel: (01485) 570475.

WATERS - Edith Hutcheson née Anderson (Andy), Paxton, Berwickshire, widow of Commander G.M. Waters, on March 12th 1997 in her 95th year. Funeral Service in Pentland Chapel, Mortonhall Crematorium on Tuesday, 18th March 1997 at 3.15 pm. No flowers but donations, if so desired, to RNLI or Officers Association (Scotland), Haig House, Fitzroy Place, Glasgow, G3 7BJ.

WATERS - Leslie Roy passed away peacefully Sunday January 12th 1997 aged 75 years. Beloved brother of Olive and brother-in-law of Malcolm. Funeral and Service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, Tuesday 21st January at 10am. Lovingly remembered, sadly missed by nephews, nieces and all the family.

WATSON - Margaret on March 11th 1997 peacefully after a courageous fight against severe disabilities, beloved wife of the late Rex Paxton Watson, dearly loved mother of Peppi and Ian, grandmother of Victoria, Tim, Antonia, William and Henry. Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30 pm on Monday 24th March at St Nicholas Church, Worth, Sussex. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Arthritis & Rheumatism Council c/o Lt. Cmdr. Paddy Dowzer, The Forge Cottage, Handcross, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6BJ. (01444) 400596).

WEIR - On 12th March 1997 Forbes Spottiswoode, aged 92, late of Sunningdale and Rogate. Very dear husband for 65 years of Evelyn and father of Arthur Weir, Janet Kapp and the late David Weir. Former senior partner of AF & RW Tweedie. Funeral on Tuesday 18th March at 2.30 pm at St Peter's Church, Terwick, near Rogate, Sussex. Enquiries to Funeral Services (Petersfield) Ltd., (01730) 262711.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

HERIOT - Alexander John M.S. FRCS. 28th May 1914 - 14th March 1996. Remembering all the happy days and forever missing you. Love Cynthia, Jenny and Sandy.

MATTISON - Leonard George. Will be a year on the 16th Dad, but miss you very much. Always in our thoughts, John and James.

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MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT COOK

Major-General Robert Cook, Signal Officer-in-Chief of the Army, 1989-92, and Director General, Federation of the Electronics Industry since 1993, died of motor-neurone disease on February 25 aged 57. He was born June 18, 1939.

Bob Cook became the Army's Signal Officer-in-Chief as the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet threat to Europe collapsed. The Ministry of Defence had set in hand the strategic studies of *Options for Change*. The Treasury, however, had hijacked the work and turned it into a cost-cutting exercise to garner the largest possible "peace dividend" while the going was good. Cook and his fellow arms directors were soon faced with the task of trying to meet Treasury demands for cuts with one hand while conducting the Gulf War with the other.

Cook was the right man to fight the Royal Signals' corner at this crucial time. He was blessed with a sharp intellect and a real understanding of the rapidly advancing electronic technologies in the fields of command, control and information systems in war; he could also express their benefits lucidly to the Army Board. He had a robust personality, was a dynamic commander and an able staff officer — all of which enabled him to ensure that Royal Signals did not lose out in the struggle for resources within the Treasury's draconian financial limits.

Taking a personal grip on reshaping his corps, he wrote a strategy paper on the future command and control structure for the Army in the post-Cold War era against which Royal Signals' units could be justified. This turned out to be a remarkably perceptive analysis, written at a time when there was no certainty about the future size and shape of the Army. His work, reinforced by ongoing experience in providing the Army's communications during the Gulf War, laid the foundations of today's Royal Signals' order of battle.

Concurrently with *Options for Change*, he was embroiled in the *Review of the Training Base*. He fought, perhaps over-doggedly, on behalf of his and the other engineering corps (RE and REME) for the retention of their apprentice and junior leaders regiments, recognising that their disbandment would seriously damage recruiting of high calibre young men (as has, indeed, proved to be the case).

Sadly, his outspoken opposition to these and other changes may have played a part in his not being appointed CB on his retirement — in spite of his invaluable services to the Army and his corps over some forty years. Ironically, he heard just before he died of the return, in modified form, of both apprentice and junior leader training.

The son of an army officer serving in India, Robert Francis Leonard Cook was initially brought up in what is now Pakistan. He went to school first at Karachi Grammar School and then, back in England, at Welbeck College and Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1959.

He showed his pronounced scientific and technological bent early at the School of Signals and at the Military College of Science at Shrivenham, where he gained a BSc in physics in 1962, and, after a further two years' research work, an MSc. Subsequently, he became a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and a Chartered Member of the Institute of Physics.

His first technical staff appointment came in 1975 on the project management staff of the procurement executive within the MoD. Promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1977, he returned to Shrivenham as an instructor in telecommunications, information systems and electronic warfare.

In 1978 he went to Germany to take command of 4th Division's HQ and Signal Regiment at Herford. At the end of his command, he was given a change of scene in 1981, when he was appointed to the logistics planning staff of HQ BAOR, handling theatre war plans and British lines of communication.

His respite from technology was short-lived: promoted colonel in 1982, he joined the operational requirements staff in the MoD where he was responsible for stating the Army's development requirements for future communications, intelligence and surveillance equipment up to and beyond the year 2000.

He was soon able to put Whitehall theory into practice in Germany when, in 1983, he was promoted brigadier with the two-hatted appointments of Commander Communications, 1st (British) Corps, and Brigade Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, which he was instrumental in forming. His outstanding work was the introduction of the then state-of-the-art Ptarmigan area communication system and the early electronic data handling system, named Wavell (after the Field Marshal).

At the end of 1985, he attended the Nato Defence College in Rome, and then became secretary to the Nato Military Committee in Brussels. It was an exciting time to be in the Nato corridors of power. Events were pointing to the collapse of communism, and the Nato Chiefs of Staff were working in overdrive. Despite the pressures in Brussels, Cook managed to find time to gain a Master of Philosophy degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Wales in 1989.

After he became Signal Officer-in-Chief, a fresh reorganisation within the Defence Ministry led to his taking on additional co-ordinating responsibilities as Director General of Command, Control, Communications and Information Systems (Army) in 1990. Retiring from the Army in 1992, he threw himself with his customary energy into a second career as Director General of the Federation of the Electronics Industry; he was building a reputation for sound leadership and administrative drive among the leading electronics firms when his health gave way.

He married Gillian (Jilly) Margaret Lowry in 1961. His wife, a son and two daughters survive him.

PROFESSOR COLIN SMITH

Colin Smith, Professor of Spanish, Cambridge University, 1975-90, died of cancer on February 16 aged 69. He was born on September 17, 1927.

COLIN SMITH was a leading authority on medieval Spanish literature. His publications on the *Poema de mío Cid* profoundly altered the way in which that epic is viewed. His edition of 1972, based closely on the manuscript, challenged longstanding orthodoxy. Supported by the work of others that soon appeared, it set new norms and cleared the way for radical rethinking.

Smith was at the forefront of this through a series of articles which culminated in *The Making of the Poema de mío Cid* (1983), in which his view of the poem as the product of a single, learned author in a particular cultural milieu is set out most fully.

But perhaps Smith's most prominent achievement was the *Collins Spanish Dictionary*. Under his editorship it marked a major advance in Spanish-English dictionaries, with its wide-ranging inclusion of contemporary language, its lack of pedantry and its capacity to provide the practical help that users seek in such a work. Smith's direction of subsequent updated and improved editions ensured that its position remained unchallenged.

Born in Sussex, and always keeping the soft burr of its accent, Christopher Colin Smith was educated at Varndean School in Brighton. He first went up to Cambridge in 1947 to read modern languages at St Catharine's College. He stayed there for his doctorate on Góngora and his precursors, the subject of his first published articles. He lectured in Spanish at the University of Leeds in the 1950s and 1960s, when his first works on lexicography and on the medieval period were produced. In 1968 he moved back to Cambridge, to a lectureship in Spanish and to a fellowship at St Catharine's. He was appointed to the Chair of Spanish in 1975, and he filled it with distinction until choosing early retirement in 1990.

In addition to the *Collins Spanish Dictionary* and his work on the *Poema de mío Cid*, Smith also published studies on other areas of Spanish culture, from medieval to modern, from chronicles in Latin to short stories in Galician. His distinction was recognised in corresponding membership of the Real Academia de la Lengua Española and in his appointment by the Spanish Crown as Comendador de número de la Orden de Isabel la Católica.

Remarkably, Smith was also an outstanding scholar in another field, British place-names. He had inherited his father's interest in archaeology and as a young boy he had taken part in several digs. Besides his several articles, his tome on *The Place-Names of Roman Britain* (1979), with A. L. F. Rivet, was a major contribution that remains a standard work of reference to this day.

Brimming with energy, Smith was no introverted scholar. He contributed greatly to his various universities, to St Catharine's College and to academe in many other ways. One of the most influential was his work for the *Modern Language Review*, the language journal of the Modern Humanities Research Association. He was the journal's Hispanic editor, 1974-81, and its general editor, 1976-81. This work and his great distinction as a scholar were rightly recognised last year, when he was the honorary president of the Modern Humanities Research Association for 1996.

He was a popular colleague, lecturer and tutor. At St Catharine's College, to whose welfare he was dedicated, he unfailingly offered time to those who needed it, along with a *copa* of the college's sherry at the appropriate hour of the day. His infectious good humour and sense of fun enlivened many occasions, and found other outlets in his production of cartoons, memoirs of a Cambridge bedder, pseudo-medieval ballads and the like.

And, as if this were not enough, Smith pursued his principal hobby to a considerable level of expertise. He was a keen amateur entomologist with his own fine collection of moths. His knowledge of them was encyclopaedic, and it was a matter of considerable satisfaction to him that, while on a field trip in southern England in 1990, he discovered a species new to this country, which he named the Southern Chestnut, declining to name it after himself in a typical act of modesty.

He was, also, a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife Ruth, and by their three daughters. His son predeceased him.

HELENA HAYWARD

Helena Hayward, OBE, decorative arts historian, died on February 17 aged 82. She was born on September 18, 1914.

FLUENT in French, German and Italian, Helena Hayward was quite at ease at the centre of a group of foreign art historians. Assembling them around a Chinese Chippendale chair, for instance, she would enthral them with her vivacity and knowledge. She understood that a good teacher needs to explain objects at first-hand, unhindered by glass cases or roped off areas.

Helena was the only daughter of Sir Henry Martyn, KCVO, Surgeon-Apothecary to the Royal Household at Windsor. After going to school in Ascot, she went to the Sorbonne and to Heidelberg Universities, and also spent a considerable time in Italy. This explained her command of three foreign languages, although she also had some knowledge of Spanish, Danish and Russian.

In 1939 (on April Fool's Day, she liked to explain), Helena married the art historian John Hayward. He was called into service with the Special Operations Executive a few months later but as soon as the war was over he and his wife found themselves freer to pursue their mutual interest in art. John Hayward was appointed a member of the Monuments and Fine Arts branch of the Army of Occupation in Austria from 1945 to 1947, and then, for two more years, a member of the Control Commission in Vienna.

These appointments gave his wife a superb chance to study in many foreign libraries and to examine, in detail, Baroque architecture and decoration. In 1951, when her husband joined the staff of the Victoria and Albert Museum, she settled down in London to family life, and to writing and lecturing.

Helena Hayward's first book was a dictionary of antique collecting, but it was her 1963 pioneering study of the 18th-century woodcarver Thomas Johnson which established her reputation. She built this up by editing *World Furniture* (1969) and later a book of all the drawings of the 18th-century furniture maker, John Linnell. Her two-volume study (with Professor Pat Kirkham), of John Linnell and his brother William was published in 1980.

But it was as a teacher that she became best known. She lectured at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and for six years taught the silver and furniture courses at the Study Centre for the History of the Fine and Decorative Arts which her friend Erica O'Donnell had founded in 1964. Helena Hayward would also accompany her husband to the venues of the Attingham Summer School, to study the country house and its contents. She gave help to this school for many years, becoming its co-director in 1971, and then for ten years, 1976-85, its director. An Attingham scholarship was endowed in her name in 1991.

Although an enthusiastic and charismatic personality, Helena Hayward always maintained a courteously tactful approach to house owners, whose knowledge of their own possessions was often less precise than her own. When they claimed that an Art-Nouveau chair, for instance, was one that had been used at George II's Coronation, Helena would say nothing to disenchant them.

In 1994 a lavish party was thrown at Cliveden to celebrate her 80th birthday. Assembled friends paid tribute to a remarkable life.

Her husband died in 1983 and she is survived by a son and daughter.

JOHN CHAPMAN

John Chapman, CB, naval architect, died on February 25 aged 97. He was born on December 28, 1899.

IN A lengthy career in ship design John Henry Benjamin Chapman worked on vessels ranging from aircraft carriers and cruisers to submarines and lifeboats. He was only 14 when he joined the Royal Dockyard, Devonport, as a shipwright apprentice. He studied hard, passed his professional examinations and was appointed to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, as a constructor cadet.

After short periods at Chatham and at sea in the battleships *Resolution* and *Revenge* he was appointed, in 1923, to the Admiralty on the staff of the director of naval construction to assist first in the design of the *Kent* and *London* cruiser classes, and then to work in the submarine section.

In 1929 his special experience in underwater craft led to his joining the staff of Rear-Admiral Submarines at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport. The "O", "P" and "R" classes, the first submarines of post-First World War design, were just coming into service. In addition to attending the first of their speed and deep diving trials he had the sad task of advising on the salvaging of the prototype aircraft-carrying submarine *M2* which had sunk while on trials in West Bay off Portland Bill. Although the submarine remains to this day at the bottom of the sea, Chapman received a personal commendation from the Admiralty Board for his part in the operation.

In 1933 he spent three years at Portsmouth in charge of the reconstruction of the battle cruiser *Repulse*. In 1936, when the rebuilding of the fleet was getting into its stride, he moved to Scotland to oversee the building of the aircraft carrier *Implacable* and the cruisers *Liverpool* and *Glasgow*, as well as the submarines *Cachalot* and *Tribune*.

In 1939 he returned to the Admiralty to take charge of aircraft operating and handling equipment. This involved liaison with the Air Ministry. He was also concerned with the fitting in merchant ships of rocket catapults for the launching of Hurricane aircraft for convoy defence.

With the passing of the Lend-Lease Act, repairs and refits of British ships were undertaken in US Navy yards and in 1941 a liaison staff of experienced naval constructors, including Chapman, was sent to America. Chapman joined the British Admiralty repair mission in Washington.

As American aid expanded, he also became concerned with the fitting out of new construction ships before their transfer to the Royal Navy, spending much of his time overseeing the work in shipyards in the United States and on the west coast of Canada. He remained in the US until the close of 1944 when he returned to the Admiralty at Bath, now in the rank of chief constructor.

A period of general design duties followed. In 1951 he was promoted to assistant director and moved into the more academic field of research and development. In 1954 he was made the principal deputy and in 1958 became Director of Naval Construction and thus chief warship designer in the new Ship Department of the Ministry of Defence. He was appointed CB in 1957.

On retirement in 1961 he became a director of Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering, and a member of the council and a vice-president of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects. He was on the management committee of the RNLI and as technical consultant was closely involved with the change from the old-fashioned double-ended lifeboats to the modern Arun, Bede and Mersey classes.

In his later years he lived in Bosham, West Sussex. His wife Dorothy died in 1991 and he is survived by their son and daughter.

ON THIS DAY

March 14, 1918

H.A.L. Fisher's Education Act raised the school-leaving age to 14. But his proposals for "continuation schools" and for classes limited to 30 were victims of the Geddes Axe in 1922.

THE CHILDREN'S CHARTER.

EDUCATION BILL IN THE COMMONS.

WESTMINSTER, Wednesday

"This Bill asserts the principle of the rights of youth." Mr Fisher declared in commending the Education Bill to the House of Commons tonight. This was the keynote of the Minister's eloquent appeal for the new Children's Charter. He completely shattered the case of his critics in a speech distinguished as much by its delightful phrasing as by its clear and convincing argument . . .

Sir Mark Sykes warmly defended the Bill as an emergency measure, which, in the circumstances of the time, it was the duty of Parliament to pass. He found two serious defects in our present system of education: it seemed to be devised to teach children a certain number of mental tricks and nothing more, and it made the teaching profession a blind alley. The only complaint he had against the Bill was that it did not allow quite enough scope for parental responsibility . . .

Mr Fisher's vindication of his proposals was exhaustive and conclusive. The cardinal principle of the Bill, he pointed out, was the provision making local authorities responsible for all kinds of education in their areas . . .

Replying to the arguments urged against the Bill, Mr Fisher denied that public education weakened the sense of parental responsibility. Education, he declared, was not one of the black arts; its function was not to suppress individuality, but to develop it. The object of the Bill was to provide the greatest possible number of outlets for talent of all descriptions.

Mr Fisher gave a rough estimate of the cost of some of the leading provisions of the Bill. The cost of raising the school age would amount to £1,000,000 a year, and of the proposals for continuation education, on the assumption that the size of the classes was limited to 30, to £8,750,000. Nursery schools would absorb another £900,000, to be divided between rates and taxes. The subject of nursery schools led the Minister to discuss the provisions for physical education, on which he laid great stress. The proposals must greatly improve the health of people.

Passing to the moral purpose of the Bill, Mr Fisher contended that the Bill would give the children of poorer parents some measure of the guidance which was universally claimed for the children of richer homes. He asked the House not to suppose that the influence of the continuation school would be limited to the statutory hours of work. Private reading would be encouraged and homework invited, and the school would be a natural introduction to all useful societies formed for artistic or social purposes.

If a really effective scheme of selection in this country was wanted, he believed that nothing better could be got than a general system of day continuation education, which would enable boys and girls of ability to be picked out at different stages of their development to be pushed on to the careers for which their natural aptitude fitted them . . .

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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY MARCH 14 1997

NEWS

Israeli schoolgirls shot dead

■ Arab-Israeli tensions rose to danger point last night after a uniformed Jordanian soldier shot dead seven Jewish schoolgirls. Israeli ministers blamed King Hussein for provoking the attack with his recent criticism of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Five of the girls died in a Jordanian hospital. Their bodies were taken to Israel for funerals which are expected to prompt an outpouring of national grief .... **Pages 1, 15, 21**

Candles for Dunblane victims

■ Throughout Dunblane and over all of Scotland, the anniversary of the massacre on March 13 last year was marked by small but poignant tributes to the 16 children and their teacher who died at the hands of Thomas Hamilton. Across the country, candles were lit at 7pm .... **Page 1**

Gay ban pledge

The Labour leadership has made a decisive shift towards lifting the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces in spite of opposition from the service chiefs. Jack Straw says it will go ... **Pages 1, 9**

Post-prandial chat

The dinner-party guests who appeared in a Channel 4 documentary which portrays them as right-wing bigots defended their views at a hastily arranged meeting in a Suffolk pub .... **Page 3**

Pupils mourned

Pupils and staff at Harrogate Grammar School mourned four of their brightest A-level students. The girls died in a car crash during a lunch-break excursion to a pub .... **Page 5**

Provocative Carey

The Archbishop of Canterbury is about to provoke more controversy with comments on "rave" services and the Royal Family's role in the Church .... **Page 6**

Baby in jail

Roisin McAliskey is to be allowed to keep her baby, which is due in May, with her in Holloway jail for nine months, the prison service announced .... **Page 8**

Law reforms delayed

The Law Commission accused the Government of wasting taxpayers' money by delaying the implementation of many law reforms .... **Page 9**

Prison ship arrives

The prison ship Weare arrived in Portland Harbour at the end of its voyage from New York. The local council is to contest its siting on the grounds that it will scare away tourists .... **Page 11**

Kohl caves in

Tired but jubilant miners celebrated a climbdown by Helmut Kohl who, after a week of tough street protests, agreed to stop mass lay-offs in the coal industry for the next seven years .. **Page 12**

Plutonium hazard

The five major nuclear powers now have 1,600 tonnes of surplus weapon-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium, much of it "under-protected and under-regulated" .... **Page 14**

Nazi gold for Spain

Spain received 85 tons of gold from Nazi Germany during the War, mostly shipped from Switzerland, the World Jewish Congress reported .... **Page 15**

TWA crash claim

Independent investigators claimed to have found radar evidence that TWA Flight 800 was accidentially shot down last July by a US Navy missile ... **Page 16**

Viva P.G.Wodehouse

Oxford and Cambridge, the BBC, football and P.G. Wodehouse are top "European" achievements trumpeted as an Italian response to Euroscepticism .... **Page 17**

White Cliffs of Dover are dunghills

■ The White Cliffs of Dover are made from the dung of microscopic shrimps whose droppings settled on the seabed and were later exposed, geologists believe. The chalk that makes up the cliffs and lies under much of Britain has a purity and whiteness that has always been a puzzle, says a booklet linked to a BBC television programme .... **Page 3**

Britons waiting to leave Albania outside the British Embassy in Tirana. Rebels looted the capital's airport yesterday. Pages 1, 17

BUSINESS

NatWest: NatWest Group's investment banking arm suspended four more members of staff as losses on derivatives trading widened to £90 million .... **Page 25**

Pensions: Legal & General is to begin selling pensions by telephone. The move will raise further questions about the way pensions are sold .... **Page 25**

N Brown: The mail order company is expected to raise £250 million from shareholders to fund the acquisition of the Freemans catalogue from Sears .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 24.8 points to close at 4397.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 96.8 to 97.0 after a rise from $1.5930 to $1.5973 and from DM2.7105 to DM2.7173 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Racing: Tony McCoy, who won the Champion Hurdle on Tuesday, completed a notable double on the 20-1 chance Mr Mulligan in the Cheltenham Gold Cup ..... **Page 48**

Cricket: Two England captains, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, will join the new chairman of selectors, David Graveney, in choosing the national team .... **Page 48**

Rugby union: Injuries have forced Ieuan Evans, Scott Gibbs and Colin Charvis out of the Wales team against England. Jonathan Davies will be playing his final international .... **Page 48**

Football: Paul Merson, the Arsenal midfield player, will miss most of the remainder of the FA Carling Premiership campaign after a hernia operation .... **Page 42**

ARTS

Shrink on stage: The psychoanalyst Melanie Klein, famous for her theories about sadism in children's games, is to be portrayed on stage by Gemma Jones .... **Page 35**

Rostropovich celebrates: Marking his 70th birthday, the great Russsian cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich led the London Symphony Orchestra through a programme of music originally inspired and premiered by him .... **Page 35**

Pop on Friday: Alan Jackson meets Michael Franti, one American rapper who doesn't preach a hate message; David Sinclair reviews albums from My Life Story and Aerosmith; and Caitlin Moran beseeches adults to stop discussing the Spice Girls .... **Page 36-37**

FASHION

Power cuts: The cut at Milan fashion week is for power dressing, writes Iain R. Webb, as the shoulder pad nudges its way back into the jacket. The most obvious trend for autumn/winter 1997 steals from the 1980s .... **Page 18**

FEATURES

Big idea: The Tories are working on developing insurance policies to prepare for retirement — their own. They are studying backbenchers' potential support for the leadership election they all expect to follow a general election rout .... **Page 19**

EDUCATION

Testing time: What kind of questions can 11-year-olds expect to find in the national tests in English, mathematics and science that take place in May? .... **Page 39**

Euro-study: As business becomes increasingly international and graduates widen their employment horizons, continental colleges are fighting back for a share of the MBA market .... **Page 40**

THE PAPERS

The nuclear fear is one of the last fantasies of the era. Now that the east-west apocalypse has fallen into oblivion, ecologists are tying themselves in knots to refuel the fires of anguish. Without great success: for years the French have listened to this refrain and then gone back to their own affairs — *Le Figaro*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ WEEKEND
Janine di Giovanni celebrates the first man in every woman's life

■ MONEY
Your retirement should be free of money worries, but are you saving enough?

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Hours and hours of nonsense but it is all in a good cause. *Comic Relief* (BBC1, 7pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard on food shopping the hard way .... **Page 47**

Calm and conciliation

Middle East leaders must moderate their public words, becalm the political mood and resume the of dialogue .... Pag

Hole in the bank

The examples of NatWest and others should make banks understand that several good years of profits can be quickly swallowed up by one black hole .... **Page 21**

Justice delayed

The next government should clear space for the undramatic Bills that can make a difference .... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS

Take yourself to that likely moment outside Conservative Central Office in Smith Square on the morning of 2 May, when John Major steps on to the pavement to concede defeat. The next few minutes could be critical to Britain .... **Page 2**

TESSA BLACKSTONE

What we need now is a return to London-wide government with as little disruption as possible. Labour's plans for a Greater London Authority offer this, which is what the opinion polls say the overwhelming majority of Londoners want .... **Page 20**

LYNNE TRUSS

I have a theory that the sphinx-like Ruud Gullit should show more emotion on the touchline, to assure his players that he cares... **Page 46**

PETER RIDDELL

Commons select committees may turn out to be one of the most lasting creations of the Thatcher era .... **Page 10**

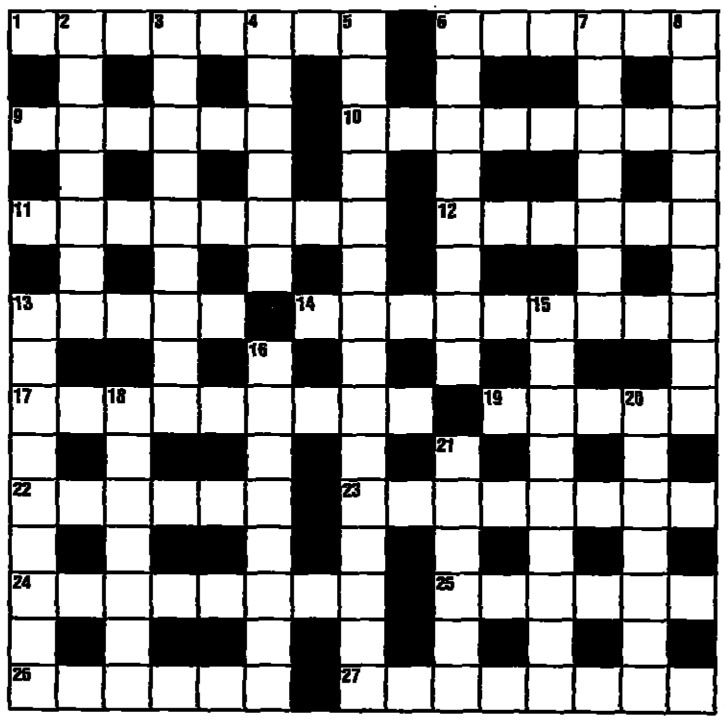
OBITUARIES

Major-General Robert Cook, Army Signal Officer-in-Chief; **Professor Colin Smith**, Spanish at Cambridge; **Helena Hayward**, historian; **John Chapman**, naval architect .... **Page 2**

LETTERS

Nato; HIV tests for doctors; left-handedness; devolution; Kurds in Turkey; parking in the Mall; Branagh's *Hamlet* .... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,427



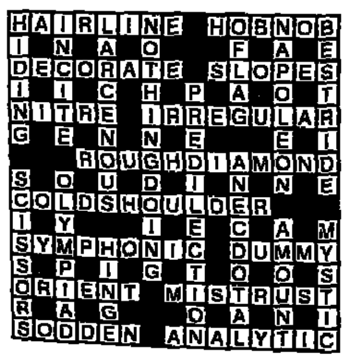
ACROSS

1 It makes the boss tight, having a fixed wage (3,5).
6 Sweet and stupid enough to be a model, from what we hear (6).
9 Selfishness, say, is in order (6).
10 Desires to dine – room for two here (4-4).
11 Paper that provides scattered coverage of matches (8).
12 Kind of art needing notes to make meaning clear (6).
13 Awake in a prison (5).
14 Get garage to break down sum total (9).
17 A reference letter changed initially gives one worry (9).
19 Produced a crafty lead – one light as a result? (5).
22 A little person at an instrument might play this (6).
23 Great lover – or abandoned lawbreaker (8).
24 Cook undone in disparaging reference (8).
25 Didn't disagree, as Homer sometimes did (6).
26 Quickly repaired outside of vessel audibly criticised (6).
27 Bird getting sunfish (8).

DOWN

2 Prepare legal document for arrest (7).
3 Miser fell on pirate captain (9).
4 It's cold outside (6).
5 Plane with storage places for footwear (10,5).
6 These drawing instruments can become rulers (8).
7 Rome can represent another Italian city (7).
8 Legal document in, for example, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* action (5-4).
13 Scottish philosopher presenting a mother's story for listeners (4,5).
15 Gong for first in, or daughter going into dinner, say (4,5).
16 Got hold of fudge and ate it (8).
18 Losing first wicket spoils team's score (7).
20 Nearest cooking may be Oriental (7).
21 In a state, finish things that have to be done (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,426



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HAIRLINE HOBNOB
I N A O   F A E
DECORATE SLOPES
I I C H P A O T
NITRE IRREGULAR
G E N N E   E I
   ROUGHDIAMOND
S O U D I N N E
COLDSHOULDER   
I Y   I E C A M
SYMPHONIC DUMMY
S P I G T O O S
ORIENT MISTRUST
R A G   O A N I
SODDEN ANALYTIC
```

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Ballykelly, Co Londonderry, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Fair Isle, Shetland, 0.47in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 7.9hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will soon become dry with sunny intervals as rain over eastern England clears during the morning. However, south-west England and west Wales will become cloudy again with some rain or drizzle. It will be mild generally.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly dry at first with bright or sunny spells, but rain over northern Scotland will edge slowly south during the day. Northern Ireland will become cloudy later. Rather cold in the far north, but mild elsewhere.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders:** any rain soon clearing, then dry with sunny intervals. Wind westerly, fresh, becoming moderate. Max 12C (54F)

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N England:** dry with sunny intervals. Wind westerly, fresh, becoming moderate. Max 11C (52F)

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District:** dry at first, some bright or sunny intervals but becoming cloudy with rain or drizzle. Wind westerly, strong, becoming moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** mainly dry, bright or sunny intervals. Rain or drizzle later. Wind westerly, fresh to strong, becoming moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland:** cloudy, rain at times. Wind fresh to strong, westerly, moderating later. Max 9C (48F)

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rain at first but becoming brighter. Perhaps some wintry showers later. Wind fresh to strong, northeasterly. Rather cold. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Outlook for Saturday and Sunday:** rain spreading northeast across most parts, then mainly dry. Becoming warm generally.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

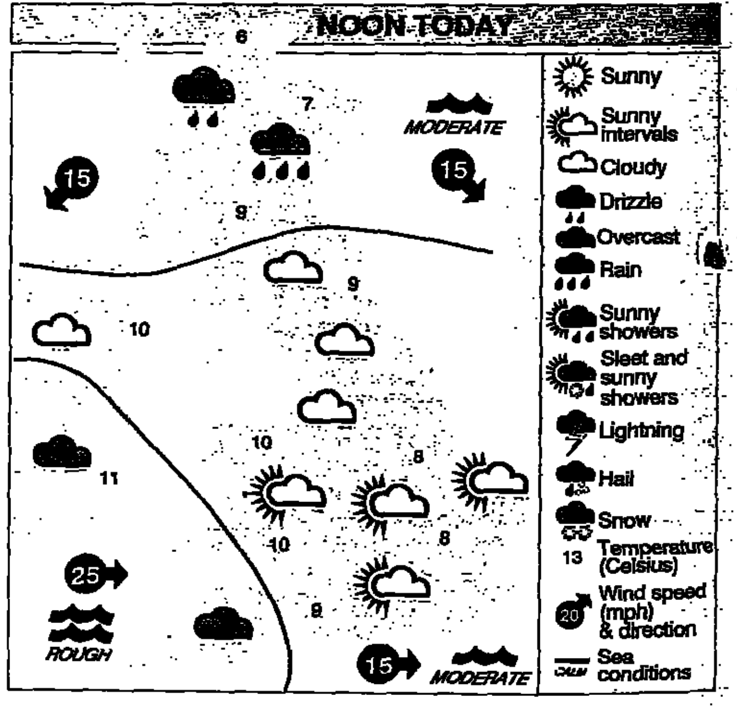
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.5	-	14	57	b	Littlehmptn	1.6	-	11	52	s
Anglesey	1.0	0.01	11	52	r	London	5.4	-	13	55	s
Aspatria	0.3	0.06	9	48	r	Lowestoft	6.1	0.01	12	54	s
Aviemore	0.7	0.03	12	54	r	Manchester	1.0	-	13	55	b
Belfast	1.0	0.04	13	55	r	Minehead	-	-	12	54	c
Birmingham	X					Morecambe	0.1	0.01	11	52	du
Bognor R	2.0	-	11	52	b	Newcastle	X				
Bournem'th	0.1	-	11	52	c	Newquay	-	-	12	54	c
Bristol	0.5	-	13	55	c	Norwich	2.9	-	12	54	s
Buxton	1.2	-	11	52	b	Oxford	X				
Cardiff	0.1	0.01	12	54	c	Penzance	X	-	12	54	b
Clacton	7.9	0.01	12	54	s	Poole	-	-	12	54	c
Cleethorpes	X					Prestatyn	X	-	14	57	b
Colwyn Bay	1.8	0.01	10	50	b	Ross-o-wye	3.2	-	13	55	b
Cromer	6.5	-	12	54	s	Salcombe	-	-	11	52	c
Eastbourne	1.7	-	11	52	b	Sandown	-	-	10	50	c
Edinburgh	0.3	0.03	13	55	r	Sauntn Snd	-	-	11	52	du
Eskdalemuir	-	0.18	8	46	r	Scarboro'	4.3	0.01	12	54	s
Exmouth	0.2	-	11	52	c	Shanklin	X				
Falmouth	-	-	11	52	c	Shrewsbury	1.8	-	14	57	c
Fishguard	0.5	0.01	12	54	c	Skegness	5.8	-	13	55	s
Folkestone	3.6	-	12	54	s	Southend	X				
Glasgow	0.1	0.04	10	50	r	Southport	0.7	-	11	52	c
Guernsey	0.2	-	12	54	c	Southsea	0.8	-	11	52	c
Hastings	1.4	-	11	52	b	Stornoway	0.1	0.14	11	52	r
Hayling I.	1.9	-	11	52	b	Swanage	0.1	-	10	50	c
Hove	0.7	X	10	50	b	Teignmouth	0.2	-	12	54	c
Hunstanton	X	-	11	52	s	Tenby	-	-	11	52	c
Isle of Man	0.3	0.01	9	48	c	Tiree	-	0.09	10	50	r
Jersey	0.7	-	11	52	c	Torquay	0.1	-	12	54	c
Kinloss	0.1	0.01	13	55	r	Tynemouth	-	-	13	55	b
Leeds	1.9	-	13	55	b	Ventnor	0.2	-	10	50	c
Lerwick	-	0.11	3	37	sn	West-s-mare	-	-	13	55	c
Leuchars	2.2	0.01	12	54	r	Weymouth	-	-	10	50	c

ABROAD

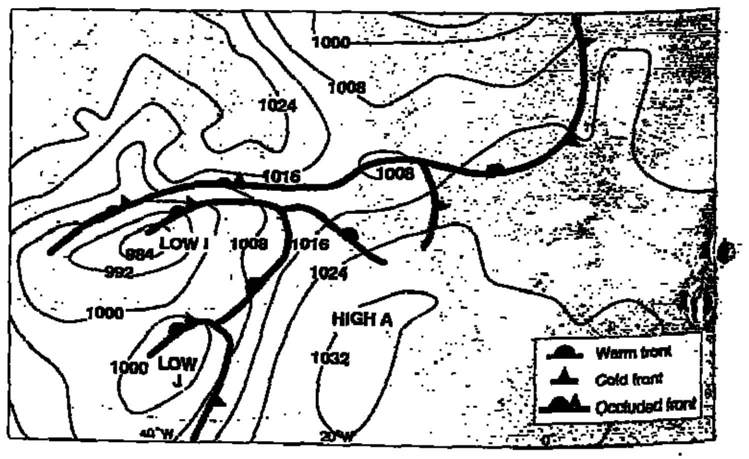
Ajaccio	16	61	s	Corfu	17	63	s	Majorca	17	63	f	Rome	17	63	s
Akrotiri	20	68	s	C'phagn	3	37	fg	Malaga	18	64	s	S Fr'sco	13	55	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dublin	14	57	f	Malta	14	57	f	S Paulo	29	84	f
Algiers	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	X			Melb'rne	25	77	f	Salzburg	14	57	s
Amst'dm	7	45	c	Faro	21	70	s	Mexico C	20	68	f	Santiago	34	93	s
Athens	13	55	s	Florence	17	63	s	Miami	29	84	s	Seoul	17	63	s
B Aires	26	79	f	Frankfurt	12	54	s	Milan	17	63	s	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	19	66	f	Funchal	X			Montreal	-5	23	fg	St'kholm	9	48	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	17	63	s	Moscow	6	43	s	Strasb'rg	16	61	s
Barbados	28	82	s	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Munich	15	59	s	Sydney	26	79	s
Barcelona	16	61	s	Helsinki	8	46	s	N Delhi	28	82	s	Tangier	21	70	s
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	25	77	c	N York	5	41	c	Tel Aviv	20	68	s
Belgrade	12	54	s	Innsbrck	17	63	s	Nairobi	28	82	f	Tenerife	24	75	s
Berlin	5	41	c	Istanbul	8	46	f	Naples	19	66	c	Tokyo	13	55	s
Bermuda	19	66	s	Jeddah	29	84	s	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	-1	30	s
Biarritz	17	63	s	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	6	43	s	Tunis	16	61	f
Borde'x	16	61	s	L Angels	X			Paris	18	64	s	Valencia	17	63	f
Brussels	13	55	s	L Palmas	27	81	s	Peking	9	48	r	Vanc'ver	4	39	c
Budapest	14	57	s	Le Touqt	13	55	f	Perth	23	73	s	Venice	14	57	s
Cairo	24	75	s	Lisbon	20	68	s	Prague	13	55	s	Vienna	12	54	s
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	15	59	s	Reykjavik	-5	23	s	Warsaw	3	37	c
Ch'church	15	59	X	Luxembg	13	55	s	Rhodes	16	61	s	Wash'ton	8	46	s
Chicago	4	39	f	Luxor	28	82	s	Rio de J	34	93	f	Wel'ngton	15	59	X
Cologne	15	59	s	Madrid	18	64	s	Riyadh	23	73	f	Zurich	15	59	s

Temperatures at midday local time Wednesday. X - not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low I will push northeastwards and fill; low J will run northwards and deepen, high A will be slow-moving with little change in central pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05 16	7.3	17 43	6.9	Leith	06 15	5.2	18.42	5.2
Aberdeen	04 54	4.0	17 17	4.0	Liverpool	02.31	9.0	14 55	8.9
Avonmouth	10 45	12.5	22 58	11.9	Lowestoft	00.41	2.5	13.16	2.3
Belfast	02.35	3.3	15 03	3.3	Margate	03.21	4.7	15.49	4.4
Cardiff	10.31	11.6	22.44	11.1	Milford Haven	09 51	6.5	22.09	6.2
Devonport	09 25	5.1	21 42	5.0	Newquay	08 47	6.5	21.05	6.2
Dover	02 17	6.8	14 42	6.3	Oban	09 12	3.4	21.10	3.3
Dublin (N Wall)	03 03	3.9	15 30	4.0	Penzance	08.09	5.2	20.30	5.0
Falmouth	08.56	4.9	21 13	4.8	Portland	10.20	1.8	22.33	1.7
Greenock	03 49	3.4	16 13	3.5	Portsmouth	02 42	4.6	15.03	4.4
Harwich	03 06	4.1	15 31	3.8	Shoreham	02.25	6.1	14.50	5.9
Holyhead	01 42	5.3	14 07	5.3	Southampton	02 08	4.4	14.26	4.2
Hull (Alben D)	09 50	8.3	22 11	8.3	Swansea	09.54	8.8	22.14	8.4
Ilfracombe	09 34	8.7	21.49	8.3	Tees	07 20	5.0	19.40	5.0
King's Lynn	09 55	6.1	22.13	6.1	Walton-on-N	03 00	4.3	15.26	3.9

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6 17 am
Sun sets: 6 04 pm
Moon sets
Moon rises: 9.22 am

London 6 04 pm to 6 15 am
Bristol 6.13 pm to 6.25 am
Edinburgh 6 14 pm to 6.28 am
Manchester 6 11 pm to 6 24 am
Penzance 6.26 pm to 6.36 am

First quarter March 16

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INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

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THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

ECONOMICS
Anatole Kaletsky looks at Germany's stand on EMU
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SPORT
McCoy takes Mr Mulligan to new heights
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

FRIDAY MARCH 14 1997

Bonuses cut by £8m as loss on derivatives trading book widens to £90m

NatWest suspends another four staff

BY JON ASHWORTH

NATWEST Group's investment banking arm has suspended four more members of staff and cut £8 million off bonuses, as losses on its derivatives trading book widened to £90 million.

Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, and an active member of the Salvation Army, has agreed to forgo £200,000 of his £500,000 performance-related bonus for 1996. NatWest says that mispricing of interest rate options dating back to 1994 has given rise to a book loss of £90 million — considerably higher than the initial £50 million estimate. The reversal of unpaid bonuses, together with provisions, results in a net charge to the accounts of £77 million.

The losses have been independently benchmarked by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, working with Linklaters & Paines, the law firm. Derek Wanless, group chief executive of NatWest Group, said that the investigating team would now turn its attention to the areas where the losses occurred, and look into potential management and control failings.

Mr Wanless said: "It is extremely regrettable that the losses and the mispricing has gone undetected for so long. Although confined to one area, this is a significant setback for NatWest Markets. We must continually improve our management and control systems. The lessons learnt from this incident are already being put into practice."

Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest Group, pledged his support. He said: "The overall business of NatWest Markets has made great strides in recent years, and our commitment to its development into a global investment bank remains unaltered. This incident has rightly caused concern both inside and outside the bank."

He added: "The investigation is independent and thorough, and we will not hesitate to take all appropriate action as a result of its findings."

The Serious Fraud Office said it had been contacted by NatWest but has yet to launch an investigation. It was in touch with regulators, and was monitoring the situation. The Bank of England is understood to be keeping a watching brief. The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), which is responsible for individual City registrations, has been notified of the suspensions.

The suspensions took place on Wednesday evening. They are part of the normal investigations procedure, and carry no implication of misconduct.

Those suspended include Phil Wise, 48, formerly senior managing director, capital markets, who was recently made chief administrative officer. He joined in 1972 on a graduate scheme from the London School of Economics.

Ian Gaskell, 34, head of swaps options trading, has also been suspended. Mr Gaskell joined NatWest in 1983 on a graduate management training programme. Jean-Françoise Nguyen, managing director, debt derivatives, and Christophe Lanson, global head of rate risk management, have also been suspended. Mr Nguyen, 37, and Mr Lanson, 30, both joined from CSFP in September 1992.

Neil Dodgson, global head of options, was suspended some days ago. Kyriacos Papouis, the options trader at the centre of the affair, left NatWest to join Bear Stearns last December, but has since resigned and has refused to cooperate with the NatWest investigation.

Vincent Tomasi, head of US debt capital markets at NatWest Markets in New York, becomes acting head of global debt derivatives.

NatWest said there had been little client reaction. Dogged in the past by the long-running Blue Arrow affair, the group is anxious to avoid any lasting damage, and Mr Wanless has moved swiftly to bring matters under control.

Leading article 21
Pennington 27
Cost of damage 29

Martin Owen, the chief executive of NatWest Markets, who has agreed to forgo £200,000 of his £500,000 performance-related bonus for 1996

'Black hole' costs bonanza

THE turmoil at NatWest has been a boon to the accountants and lawyers, who worked night and day to produce their preliminary report into the "black hole" affair (Jon Ashworth writes). The pinstriped brigade parachuted in to NatWest two weeks ago, and have been charging between £400 and £500 an hour ever since.

NatWest has thrown no fewer than four separate teams into the fray, in an attempt to unravel mispricing on the options book dating to 1994. An internal team of ten, led by David Page, director of group audit, carried out the initial investigation, with the help of a 12-strong team from KPMG, NatWest's auditor. Their work has been independently vetted by two further teams of specialists — from Coopers & Lybrand, led by Phil Rivett, a partner specialising in derivatives, and Linklaters & Paines, headed by Robert Elliott.

NatWest says a core of 25 people are involved, although more are drafted in as needed. This type of assignment — requiring swift, decisive answers in a minimum of time — carries a hefty premium, and is certain to send NatWest's £90 million figure spiralling into the nether regions. The partners involved are certain to charge in the region of £400 to £500 per hour, and the investigation is only two weeks old.

Derek Wanless, NatWest's group chief executive, effectively handed the intrepid investigators a blank cheque yesterday, when he said that the investigation would continue for "months, rather than days and weeks". The cost would undoubtedly be high, but it was important that every avenue be covered.

The inquiry has taken in NatWest's offices in New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Sydney and Singapore. Investigators have found no evidence of systemic mispricing. NatWest has so far resisted physically dispatching investigators to its outposts.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4397.7	(-24.8)
Yield	3.66%	
FTSE All share	2146.8	(-9.25)
Nikkei	17900.48	(-282.79)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6974.33	(-65.04)*
S&P Composite	798.55	(-5.71)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{7}{16}$%*	($4\frac{15}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$96\frac{7}{32}$*	($96\frac{24}{32}$)
Yield	6.94%*	(6.88%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{5}{32}$%	($6\frac{3}{32}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	$111\frac{1}{8}$	($111\frac{18}{32}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5967*	(1.5993)
London:		
$	1.5966	(1.5930)
DM	2.7174	(2.7103)
FFr	9.1582	(9.1456)
SFr	2.3311	(2.3553)
Yen	196.14	(195.35)
£ Index	97.0	(96.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7056*	(1.6927)
FFr	5.7425*	(5.7115)
SFr	1.4645*	(1.4550)
Yen	123.26*	(122.20)
$ Index	104.2	(104.2)

Tokyo close Yen 122.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$19.60	($19.40)

GOLD

London close	$352.95	($352.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Fast exit

Rob Lowes has departed suddenly as chairman and chief executive of Burger King, the fast food company owned by Grand Metropolitan, just as a burger war is breaking out in America.
Page 26

Better flavour

United Biscuits is on the road to recovery, returning to the black last year from £100 million of losses the previous year.
Page 30, Pennington 27

Bain to leave Coats Viyella

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE chief executive of Coats Viyella, the UK's biggest textile company, is to leave to "pursue his career outside the group". The departure of Neville Bain was revealed as Coats, which is in the midst of a radical shake-up, suffered a 41 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £94.4 million. Much of the slump was caused by a £54.9 million charge for restructuring.

So far, Mr Bain, 56, has nothing to go to when he leaves Coats next month or in May, but he hopes to collect a string of directorships and a chairmanship. He will be paid his £420,000 salary until the end of the year and will be available for consultancy to the company, which has struggled through cyclical downturns in textiles, currency fluctuations and international competition.

Mr Bain, who has headed Coats for more than six years, will not receive any compensation. He will be replaced by Michael Ost, who was chief executive at McKechnie, the plastics and metals group, until recently.

Mr Bain denied that he was paying the price for Coats's difficulties with his resignation and insisted that the company was well placed for development this year. Coats's share price has fallen substantially over the past year and massively underperformed the FT All-Share index.

Excluding the restructuring charge, Coats's profits slipped 8 per cent, as weak markets struck at its threads business. Threads accounts for half of the profits and in the year to December 31 fell 10 per cent to £90.3 million. The final dividend, payable on July 1, was set at 5.1p a share, leaving the total unchanged at 8.8p.

Bain: paid to end of year

Tempus, page 28

Freemans move by N Brown

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

N BROWN, the Manchester mail order company, is expected to launch a £250 million rights issue to fund the acquisition of the Freemans catalogue business from Sears.

N Brown, which is chaired by Sir David Alliance, confirmed yesterday that it is in talks with Sears and, at its request, its shares — which have been falling on speculation about a rights issue — were suspended on the Stock Exchange at 377½p. It is understood that it now has a three-week period of exclusivity in which to carry out due diligence.

N Brown said that the acquisition is likely to be on similar terms to those agreed earlier with Littlewoods. That would mean the company paying around £395 million, which would net around £360 million for Sears. The balance between the money raised from the rights issue and the amount to be paid to Sears would be financed from bank borrowings.

The Littlewoods deal lapsed after referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

L&G prepares for pension by phone

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL & GENERAL is to begin selling pensions by telephone. David Prosser, chief executive, said that the sales were likely to be execution only, with no advice given.

Mr Prosser said: "It is unlikely that we will offer advice by telephone, but we will still have a wide range of pensions available for customers who do need advice through our other distribution channels — independent financial advisers and agencies."

However, L&G's move will inevitably raise further questions about the way pensions are sold in the wake of the £4 billion mis-selling scandal. Independent advisers emphasise that pensions need to be sold as part of wider tax and financial planning.

Mr Prosser said: "Since we started selling personal equity plans and savings by telephone, demand has grown to 3,000 calls a day."

L&G's entry into direct pensions is likely to spark a price war in financial services. Liberty International, Eagle Star and Virgin already offer no-frills pensions by telephone.

Strength in life and savings products helped L&G to a 15.4 per cent rise, to £291.4 million, in 1996 pre-tax operating profit from continuing operations, up from £252.5 million.

Earnings, based on operating profit from continuing operations after tax were 16.57p a share (14.68p). The dividend rises by 14 per cent, to 11.13p.

L&G can pay all of the dividend from the return on non-profit business, income from shareholders' retained capital and 10 per cent of the surplus in the with-profits life fund.

Mr Prosser said he expected total growth of about 14 per cent from these sources in 1997.

Pennington, page 27
Tempus, page 28

Prosser: L&G profits up

Lawson's Pep talk fails to inspire investors

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

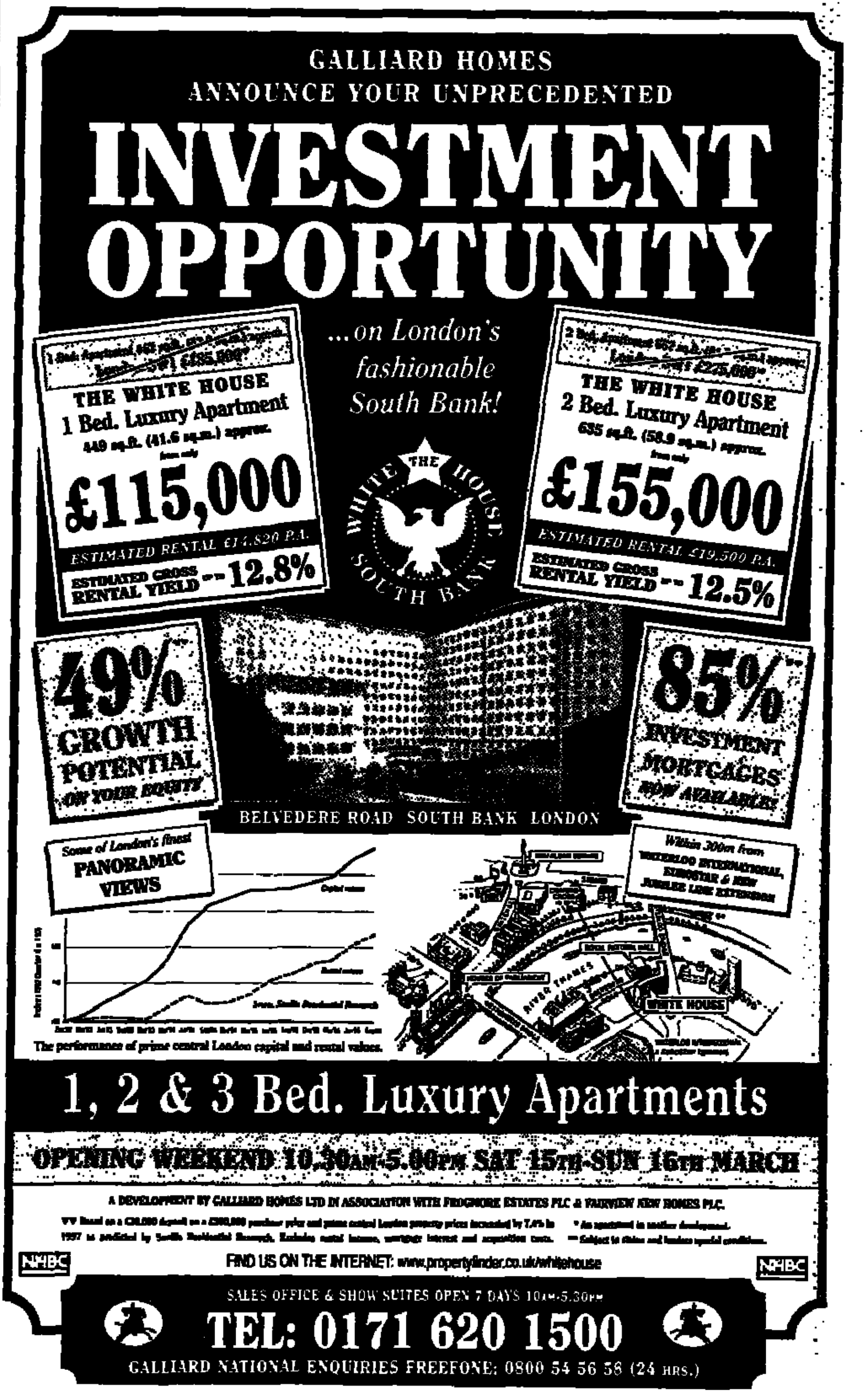
M&G, the fund manager that hired Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, for its first TV advertising campaign, has suffered the embarrassment of a flopped launch.

The company spent £2 million developing the 30-second commercials starring Lord Lawson, the self-styled inventor of personal equity plans (Peps). However, it has raised just £20 million from new investors in the High Income Trust, its only new Pep this year. This is particularly meagre compared to the £9 million M&G is also pouring into press and poster promotions.

Yesterday the company denied that it had ever set a £100 million target for the fund, and consoled itself with the additional £23 million it received from investors who switched from a predecessor trust to High Income. However, like Lord Lawson, the figure is much slimmer than expected and in stark contrast with the £217 million it managed to raise from its new Pep in 1996.

Peter Emms, group marketing and sales director, said he was disappointed, but added the Lord Lawson advertisements had been designed to broaden M&G's appeal and were not linked to specific product marketing.

Fund managers are spending an unprecedented amount on Pep advertising this year. The end of the tax year is always a heavy selling time, but has been compounded by fears that they may be reformed after the election. Peps allow up to £9,000 a year to be put into European stocks and shares free from income and capital gains tax. They have attracted more than £25 billion since since Lord Lawson introduced them in 1987. "I must have been in a very generous mood," says Lord Lawson in the advertisement. M&G must be wishing investors were.



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Siemens poised to buy Parsons from Rolls

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIEMENS, the German industrial group, is believed to be on the verge of an agreement to acquire the Parsons Power Generation business from Rolls-Royce. Industry sources say that Siemens has already interviewed key staff at Parsons, but the German company is understood to be concerned about international sales and orders for the turbine business. With those reservations, it is trying to beat down the price for the business, which could be in the region of £30 million.

The other contender for Parsons, based on Tyneside, is General Electric of the US. However, Parsons insiders say that although GE is thought to be prepared to pay more than Siemens, the German buyer is favoured by Rolls in strategic terms. Rolls is thought to see GE as too direct a competitor, and to be readier to form links with Siemens.

An agreement between Siemens and Rolls was almost secured last week, and many key Parsons staff were braced for a takeover to proceed. Some workers overseas were already prepared to brief a new owner on international projects. The City would have favoured a deal struck ahead of Rolls-Royce's results last week because analysts would have been able to write down the hefty provisions made by Rolls for disposal of Parsons and its combustion business in Derby. The company wrote off £263 million to cover the costs of withdrawal from steam power generation.

In the fresh round of talks between Rolls and Siemens, the seller is thought to be considering taking on losses associated with some of the long-term international contracts of Parsons.

At Rolls-Royce's results presentation, John Rose, chief executive, said that the company was keen to get the best price for Parsons while maximising employment expectations.

One Parsons employee seen by Siemens said that staff feared they were being interviewed for their own jobs as well as being questioned about Parsons's international prospects.

Granada plays down bid talk

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

GRANADA GROUP yesterday moved to quell rumours that it was on the verge of making a bid for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, wiping £75 million off Yorkshire's market value in the process.

Shares in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees went into freefall in late trading, closing down nearly 10 per cent at £11.62½. Granada shares fell 17p to 956½p.

Granada said that it had no current intention of bidding for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, although it did not rule out entering a takeover battle should an offer from a rival media group materialise.

Granada added that it believed the current Yorkshire-Tyne Tees share price already contained a significant bid premium. It also played down expectations that Yorkshire would win a reduction in its annual licence payment.

Ward Thomas, chairman of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, stoked speculation earlier this week when he said that the company was expecting a bid and called for it to be pitched as high as £17 a share.

Granada, which owns 27 per cent of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, has consistently said that it would be interested in bidding but only at a sensible price.

United News and Media, which has a 14 per cent stake in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, has also been linked with a takeover offer.

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

IT COULD BE YOU.

Bob Seelert, chief executive of Cordiant. The advertising group, formerly known as Saatch & Saatchi, is set to pay its first dividend in seven years

GrandMet burger king in sudden departure

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

ROB LOWES has abruptly departed as chairman and chief executive of Burger King, the fast food company owned by Grand Metropolitan.

The departure of the successful chairman was seen on Wall Street as a significant embarrassment for Burger King just as a burger price war is breaking out in the US. GrandMet refused to comment on why Mr Lowes is leaving.

McDonald's, the world's largest fast food chain, is cutting the price of its Big Mac burger from $1.95 to 55 cents to try to win back market share. Although Burger King has said that it will not lower its prices, many analysts believe that it will be forced to compete with McDonald's soon.

Burger King, the second-largest fast food group, is the strongest competitor to McDonald's in the burger sector, in which its market share has risen significantly in the past four years.

Mr Lowes presided over much of this transformation from languishing fast food company to one of the fastest-growing restaurant chains in a hugely competitive market. In 1995 he was made chairman as well as chief executive, a move that GrandMet insisted showed the level of cooperation and trust between Mr Lowes and George Bull, GrandMet's chairman. At the same time, Mr Lowes dismissed rumours that Burger King might be floated off from GrandMet.

Dennis Malamatinas is replacing Mr Lowes as chief executive and will be particularly involved with ambitious overseas expansion plans. He has served as president of International Distillers and Vintners, Asia Pacific, GrandMet's Hong Kong-based drinks business. Before joining the group, he worked for Procter & Gamble and PepsiCo.

In a move that effectively divides the roles of running US and overseas operations, Paul Clayton has been made head of operations and marketing in North America. Mr Clayton has worked for Burger King for 12 years. GrandMet said: "The expansion plans for Burger King mean that it is no longer tenable for the role of president of Burger King North America to be combined with that of chief executive officer."

Burger King has more than 8,900 outlets in 56 countries. It serves about 11.8 million customers a day and employs more than 300,000 people worldwide. In the financial year to September 30, Burger King had a 9 per cent rise in sales, to $9 billion.

Britain to block energy tax plans

BRITAIN will block controversial Brussels plans for Europe-wide energy taxes, Kenneth Clarke said yesterday (James Landale writes).

The Chancellor made clear that the Government would formally veto the plans agreed by the European Commission on Wednesday.

The draft Energy Tax Directive, which will be discussed by European finance ministers next Monday, would impose minimum tax rates on petrol and diesel that are lower than current UK duties. It would also impose minimum rates for the first time on gas, electricity and coal, which are untaxed in the UK at present.

The directive needs the support of all EU member states before it can pass.

Cordiant is back in the black after Saatchi break-up

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

CHARLIE SCOTT, chairman of Cordiant, predicted the advertising group would complete its recovery this year after the company reported a return to profit and said it would pay its first dividend for seven years.

The company, formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, was damaged in 1995 by the departure of Maurice Saatchi after a shareholder revolt over pay deals: Mr Saatchi took a number of key accounts and staff — including his brother Charles — to his new business, M&C Saatchi, while Cordiant was forced to launch a rights issue to reduce its crippling debt pile.

Cordiant, whose chief executive is Bob Seelert, yesterday recorded full-year profits, excluding tax, of £42 million, compared with a £22.6 million loss in 1995. The final dividend of 1p is due July 1.

Net interest payments declined from £20.6 million to £7.5 million, while average net debt was reduced from £125 million to £15 million. Overall revenue was flat at £755 million, although the company said that underlying revenue increased by 2.7 per cent. Trading margins were also flat at 6.4 per cent.

Cordiant said net new business picked up in the second half of last year with the company winning assignments from BMW, Coca-Cola, General Mills, HSBC and Toyota among others.

Mr Scott said that there was still much to be done on improving networks but performance was steady and the company is in a good position to build for the future.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.11	1.95	Malta	0.651	0.596
Austria Sch	19.98	18.48	Netherlds Gld	3.188	2.958
Belgium Fr	58.66	54.36	New Zealand $	2.43	2.21
Canada $	2.282	2.122	Norway Kr	11.37	10.57
Cyprus Cyp£	0.841	0.786	Portugal Esc	282.00	263.50
Denmark Kr	10.88	10.08	S Africa Rd	7.62	6.82
Finland Mkk	8.65	8.00	Spain Pta	240.50	223.50
France Fr	9.51	8.86	Sweden Kr	12.81	12.01
Germany Dm	2.85	2.64	Switzerland Fr	2.45	2.27
Greece Dr	442	416	Turkey Lira	210500	196500
Hong Kong $	13.00	12.00	USA $	1.695	1.565
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99			
Israel Shk	5.66	5.01			
Italy Lira	2825	2650			
Japan Yen	209.30	193.30			

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Final bids near for Scottish Amicable

FINAL binding bids for Scottish Amicable, the mutual life insurer, must be submitted by 6pm tonight and the outcome will be announced by the end of this month. The three firm bidders are expected to be Abbey National, Prudential Corporation and AMP of Australia. Scottish Amicable has asked the City Disputes Panel to appoint an independent tribunal should any dispute arise with bidders.

Sandy Stewart, chairman of Scottish Amicable, said: "We are making excellent progress in our discussions with all the bidders. The inclusion of an appeals process is a sensible additional safeguard of policyholders' interests." Should any bidder request that its proposal be made public, the details will be released on Monday.

Continental-Virgin pact

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, of America, has reached a code-sharing agreement with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways on the Newark/New York-London routes and eight other routes between Britain and America. The agreement replaces Virgin's alliance with Delta Air Lines which will terminate later this year. Under the arrangement, which will be subject to regulatory approvals, Continental will add two daily flights between Newark and London, and Virgin Atlantic a second flight between London and Newark.

Daimler sees growth

A SWEEPING reorganisation of Daimler-Benz has left the group poised to enjoy healthy growth for the next decade, Juergen Schrempp, the chairman, told a group of investors yesterday. He said Daimler has finally developed a structure that will enable it to compete on the international stage. He said: "We have all the formal preconditions in place to make the company healthy for the next ten years. The next step is to enact our goals." Daimler undertook a massive restructuring in January, cutting layers of middle management.

Davis moves ahead

SHARES in Davis Service rose 14p to 258p after the business support service group revealed a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £32.1 million, for 1996 on sales up £20 million at £344 million. Earnings per share rose 31 per cent to 18.92p. The final dividend rises 10 per cent to 6.9p, taking the total up from 9.35p to 10.29p. Neil Benson, chairman, said: "In 1997 I believe we will continue to build on our strengths and I look forward to reporting in due course on another successful year." Trading conditions last year were said to be challenging.

Gibbs & Dandy rise

SHARES in Gibbs & Dandy rose 2p to 98½p after the builder's merchant revealed a rise in full-year pre-tax profits to £1.21 million (£1.09 million) in the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose from 9.7p to 10.4p and the total dividend for the year rises from 3.5p to 3.75p. The company also revealed that it is to acquire Miller, Morris and Brooker, a holding company for a group of builder's merchants. GiDan is paying £3 million in cash. An additional £600,000 may be made, subject to the net asset value of MM&B.

Lambert Howarth leaps

LAMBERT HOWARTH, the footwear and ceramics company led by Sir Trevor Holdsworth, reported a 32.7 per cent rise in 1996 pre-tax profits, to £2.2 million, on sales that rose 10.6 per cent to £98.7 million. Earnings rose 22.8 per cent to 11.8p a share. A final dividend of 5.25p a share makes a total of 7.5p, up from 7.1p previously. The company said 1997 had started well, with better sales and a strong order book. The acquisition of Adinolfi last year established further critical mass in supplies to Marks & Spencer Homeware, it added.

IMI buys from Swiss

IMI, the engineering group, is to buy the Thermtec valves division of Sulzer, the Swiss group, for up to £13 million. IMI will pay an initial cash consideration of £10 million and a further amount of up to £3 million may become payable in cash depending on the profit performance up to the end of this year. Sulzer Thermtec has net assets of £5 million and headquarters and manufacturing plant in Oberwinterthur, near Zurich. It employs 300 people worldwide and has annual sales of approximately £36 million.

Pittards beats BSE

PITTARDS, the leather company, returned to profit in 1996 despite disruption to business caused by the BSE crisis, which made it hard to procure hides in the first half. Worst affected was its shoe and leather goods division. Pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 were £3.63 million, compared with a loss of £522,000 a year ago. Earnings per share were 13.3p (4p) and the company will pay a final dividend of 2.5p (1.5p), due on May 16, giving a full-year dividend of 3.25p (1.5p).

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kpn

KPN will publish its 1996 annual report in the second half of April 1997. The general meeting of shareholders will be held in Groningen on May 6, 1997. Copies of the 1996 KPN annual report are obtainable by filling in the coupon or by faxing +31-235 62 30 24.

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THE TIMES

Reckitt
away
food s

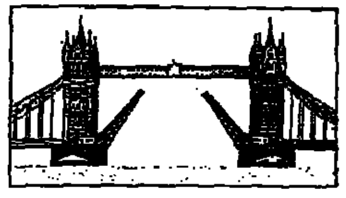
Christie's
paints a
good picture

BR subsidiary
US-owned con

☐ Who guards the NatWest guardians? ☐ Burnt-out case in gradual recovery ☐ Food retail figures show upswing

The zero option

PENNINGTON



☐ OVER the past month, the market value of National Westminster Bank has fallen by roughly £1.65 billion. Not all this can be attributed to the little mistakes being uncovered in the bank's option market-making business. Profit-taking took its toll, then the markets reacted to the Bank of England's fear that credit quality had peaked for the cycle.

Investors' confidence cannot have been helped, however, by the subsequent revelation that the bank had lost £50 million — sorry that should be £90 million and counting — because of what first seemed to be a clerical error in calculating option prices.

The one thing these numbers have in common is an awful lot of noughts. And what do noughts mean? They mean huge risks and huge potential losses as well as huge profits. In this case, disaster was not courted by the bank speculating on its own account, as virtually all do but should not. It was caused by giving customers too good a deal. Bank error in their favour, collect £90 million.

Golden termites from the accountancy and legal professions, swarming over the ant-hill that is Natwest Markets, are still trying to assess the extent of the errors and losses, the degree of incompetence and/or cover-up. Outside regulators will doubtless re-run the episode many times in slow motion. One can safely guess the sages will conclude that computer monitoring software was inadequate to the task, supervision lacked a certain something (effectiveness perhaps?) and that a lot of money will have to be spent building a better mousetrap. There will be much tut-tutting about the bonus culture that can encourage young traders to cut corners.

We have heard it all before. The message of the noughts is, however, that the supervisory overheads should match the skills, drive and financial incentives of front-line traders. One solution would be to use burnt-out traders, say past the age of 30. Another might be to adopt a military approach so that no one was in charge of the same book for long, that traders swapped places and perhaps that traders should spend every other month supervising each other. If this were done, profit margins would be lower, but so would be losses.

When investors lose £1.65 billion in a month, it is a serious matter whatever the cause. Retribution has certainly been swift and deadly. Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, has volunteered to give up £200,000 of his £500,000 annual bonus. Mr Owen, a worthy fellow, believes this good example will encourage senior managers to take responsibility and follow suit.

Wow. Giving up £200,000 of your £500,000 annual success bonus just because you missed a £90 million hole. Now that is really something. Those employees who sued Barings for their bonuses after it collapsed will doubtless be impressed by this new moral dimension.

Crumbling heritage of United Biscuits

☐ IT IS hard not to wax philosophical over burnt-out former stars such as BTR and United Biscuits. Once they bestrode the stock market like colossi, and Sir Owen Green and Sir Hector Laing, as they then were, were two of the most admired and powerful businessmen of their time. Now their successors are scrabbling around to persuade analysts that the worst of the decline is over. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher: all is vanity.

UB shares have seen something of a renaissance so far this year, as one or two of those analysts have been persuaded. The shares are, however, still not much more than half their value in 1993. Colin Short, the hard man drafted in from ICL, has delivered most of what the market has been asking for, by means of disposals including Keebler, probably UB's worst mistake because it meant taking on PepsiCo in its home market, and cost-cutting. UB was actually cash positive by £5 million last year before disposals, the first time this decade for a company whose appetite has often exceeded its means. This was in spite of marketing spend rising as a percentage of sales and being set to rise further this year. The interest bill was almost five times covered by profits, and market projections suggest that cover will be up to seven or eight this year. Quite respectable, but reflected in the share price, alas, of about 16 times earnings this year and 14 times those for 1998.

This makes UB, the dog of the food sector, and, with limited growth prospects, dearer than more respected businesses such as Cadbury Schweppes. The premium has much to do with those hostile bid rumours that Eric Nicoli, the chief executive, claims to have heard once a week for the near-17 years that he has been there. Talks have taken place with Cadbury, which wisely turned UB down, and more tentatively with Nestlé.

The latest candidate for those keen to push the UB price higher is Unilever. However, the Anglo-Dutch food combine has its eyes on the Far East and other emerging markets. UB, before its untimely expansion, depended on the UK for 70 per cent of profits. After the group's contraction, the corresponding figure today is ... 70 per cent. That's progress.

Grocers show signs of a counter punch

☐ THE retailing pitches on City trading floors are wondering whether our mighty grocers, in the dumps since the start of the year, might have turned the corner. The reason is some sales data gathered and analysed by the Institute of Grocery Distribution that seem to show a sharp recovery in early March.

The IGD data are treated within the trade with the sort of secrecy normally reserved for instructions on how to produce a small nuclear device in your living room — that is, most experts have a pretty good idea but no one is inclined to say much in public. The index of food retailers' shares had plunged by about 13 per cent at its worst point in early February as fears of widespread price cuts coincided with a serious slump in sales in the early weeks of the year. Matters were made worse by a report from Verdict, the influential retail consultancy, which predicted price wars over the next two or three years. Then there were the travails of Sainsbury as it was overtaken by Tesco as market leader.

The industry itself has been desperate for proof that February's dip, and the worst month for food sales in two years, was a one-off, perhaps people destocking their larders after Christmas, going on winter holidays in larger numbers or paying off credit card debt. The IGD figures may have provided this at last, with food retail sales growth back where it was before the big panic, which is why prices have been ticking up this week. It is too soon to be sure, and some figures from AGB Research next week may tell us more, but one or two investors are already placing their bets.

Wrong number

☐ ONE wonders where the rush towards ordering everything on the telephone will end. Insurance is a commodity product, true, but pensions should surely be more individually tailored. Yet Legal & General is joining Virgin and others in selling the things over the phone. First there was pensions mis-selling — now wait for pensions mis-dialling.

Reckitt shifts away from food sector

By Fraser Nelson

RECKITT & COLMAN, the household products and food group, is shifting away from its £200 million food operation, which it regards as "non-core".

The company, which owns Dettol and Lemsip, said that the food business was not part of long-term growth strategy. Instead, it was looking to emerging markets, through sales of its household products, to drive future growth.

Its food operations, mainly in North America, suffered a fall in operating profit last year, to £19.5 million, in spite of a 3.6 per cent increase in sales, to £203 million.

A stronger performance from household products, which account for 80 per cent of group business, helped pre-tax profits grow to £316 million (£285 million). After the effects of disposals, earings dropped to 57.7p (76.8p) a share. The total dividend rises to 23.37p (20.15p), with a final 14.02p due on July 7.

The strength of sterling cut about £130 million from group turnover, which grew from £2.25 billion to £2.29 billion on an underlying basis.

L&F products, which it bought in 1995, delivered £45 million of cost savings on an ongoing basis. The company shed 1,400 jobs after the merger, leaving 2,200 staff — the same number as the company had before the acquisition.

Vernon Sankey, chief executive, said the company would not be making any major acquisitions this year. It plans to buy local brands from emerging markets, and aims to capture 30 per cent of the market in Latin America and Asia within four years.

Mr Sankey played down speculation that the company may be approached by Unilever.

Revenue from North America grew 28 per cent to £780 million over the year, as the region overtook Europe to become the group's largest earner. The introduction of new brands helped lift margins from 13.2 per cent to 15.6 per cent, and operating profit to £121 million (£101 million).

The company blamed economic weakness for its poor results in continental Europe, where revenue was stagnant at £763 million.

The City gave a lukewarm reception to the results, and the shares fell 2p to 787p.

Christie's paints a good picture

By Sarah Cunningham

CHRISTIE'S International sees a good growth outlook this year with several important collections of paintings lined up for sale.

In 1996 there were few major single-owner collections sold but auction sales still grew by 9 per cent, contributing to a 57 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to £33.9 million, the auction house said yesterday. Impressionist and Modern picture sales accounted for 20 per cent of group turnover and jewellery 17 per cent.

Earnings increased to 12.77p a share (8.03p). The final dividend of 3.55p (2.15p), due May 23, gives a total of 4.75p (2.8p).

Peter Blythe, finance director, said that the company may move to new premises in New York or reorganise the current Park Avenue premises. It also hopes to hold sales in Paris in 1998.

Amvesco to change name again

By Gavin Lumsden

AMVESCO, the result of last year's merger between fund managers Invesco and AIM Management Group of the US, is to change its name again after a legal challenge from a Texan real estate company.

It is to be renamed Amvescap after Amresco, a Dallas firm that plans to expand into pensions management, challenged the firm after the merger in November. Robert McCullough, chief financial officer, said this had forced the company to delay a corporate advertising campaign.

Excluding exceptional items, pre-tax profits for the Invesco business rose 40 per cent to a record £66 million, with funds under management up 13 per cent to $10.9 billion and earnings per share up 34 per cent to 16.6p. A final dividend of 4p, to be paid on April 3, brings the total for the year to 6p.

BR subsidiary sold to US-owned company

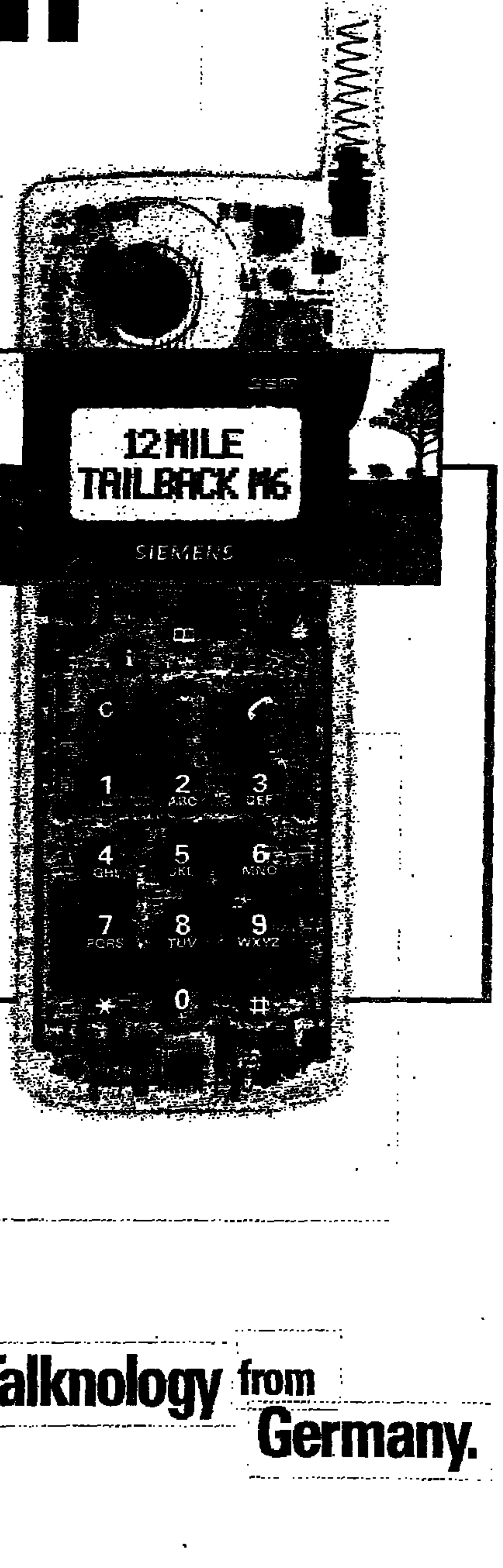
By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

RAILFREIGHT Distribution (RFD), British Rail's loss-making Channel Tunnel freight subsidiary, is to be sold to the American-owned English Welsh and Scottish Railway (EWS), it was confirmed yesterday.

The sale of the company, which loses £60 million a year, virtually completes the break-up of BR, which is due to be completed by its final year-end on March 31. ScotRail, the Scottish passenger train operator is BR's last remaining significant trading subsidiary and it is due to be taken over by National Express Group by early next month.

The deal gives EWS a virtual monopoly over rail freight in the United Kingdom after its purchases of BR's three domestic heavy freight subsidiaries and Rail Express Systems, which handles mail and parcels.

No financial details of the sale were disclosed.



SIEMENS

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STOCK MARKET **MICHAEL CLARK**

Prospect of US rate rise lifts fears of shake-out

THE prospect of a rise in US interest rates sent Wall Street into a nosedive last night and left share prices and bonds sharply lower in London.

With the Dow Jones industrial average plunging more than 100 points, at one stage, brokers in London's Square Mile are poised for another shake-out when trading resumes this morning. Yesterday the FT-SE 100 index closed just above its low for the day with a fall of 24.8 at 4,397.7. Trading conditions were subdued, with investors' attention focused on Cheltenham and the Gold Cup. Turnover levels also fell, with a total of 863 million shares traded.

There was the smell of burnt fingers at **Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television** after **Granada**, its biggest shareholder, ruled out the prospect of a bid this year. The price touched £11.05 before ending the 117½p down at £11.62½. Granada, down 17p at 956½p, said speculation was mis-placed and said the current bid price already reflected a healthy premium. Only an offer from a third party would pursuade Granada to change its mind.

The spiralling losses in its interest rates options book left **NatWest** 5p lower at 739p. Provisions have now been increased to £77 million after an investigation by accountants.

Cadbury Schweppes slipped 2p to 553p as a protected block trade of 4.89 million shares from Tuesday went through at 541p. **United Biscuits** rose 12½p to 250p on the back of some impressive profit numbers. Dealers hope the company has finally turned the corner after a depressing couple of years.

BG was again one of the heaviest traded shares among the top 100 as the price rose 2¼p to 170p with 16.98 million recorded. Brokers are hoping for some good news soon.

The market gave the thumbs-up to full-year figures from **Enterprise Oil**, which was rewarded with a rise of 18½p at 652p. The group has a billion barrels of oil in reserve and says it has no intention of raising money via a rights issue to spend on acquisitions. This left **Cairn Energy** 4½p off at 576½p. It had been tipped as the most likely takeover target for Enterprise.

There was heavy turnover in **Dana Petroleum** as the price firmed 2p to 23½p with 22 million shares changing hands. A line of 2.19 million was recorded at 23p and another two million at 23½p. There were also two lines of 1.65 million at 22½p.

There seems to be no stopping **Shield Diagnostics**, up another 87½p at 805p. Shield started the year at 130p, but has gone from strength to strength on the back of prospects for its new detection process for heart disease.

Shares of **N Brown**, the mail order group, were suspended 4p lower at 377½p as the group confirmed it was in talks with **Sears** to buy its Freemans mail order business. Sears was 1p firmer at 81p.

A profits downgrading left **De La Rue** nursing a fall of 24p at 592½p. Cazenove, the broker, is said to have cut its forecast for the current year by £10 million to £125 million after the recent acquisition of Harrison, the security printer. It also expects earnings growth to remain flat during the next couple of years.

At the same time, BZW has issued a basket of paper and packaging warrants. The 20 million warrants, including De La Rue, **Rexam**, 2½p easier at 331½p, **Arjo Wiggins**, 1½p dearer at 195½p, and others, will be issued at 81p on the basis of ten warrants for one basket.

This week's revival in shares of **Iceland**, the frozen food retailer, based on the proposed share buyback at 105p has proved short-lived, with the price dipping 4½p to 95p. Brokers are sceptical.

There is little to cheer shareholders of **Wakebourne**, the computer services group, these days. The shares continue to bounce along on the bottom, closing unchanged at 12p yesterday. The price stood at 35p last year and reached 351p in 1992.

PizzaExpress, headed by Luke Johnson, chairman, and David Page, chief executive, responded positively to this week's "buy" recommendation from Kleinwort Benson, the broker, with a rise of 9p at 666½p. The fast-growing restaurant chain plans to open a further 20 franchised outlets in the short term. Credit Lyonnais, the company's own broker, says such a move will be cash generative. It also rates the share a "buy".

MAID, the information and technology supplier, shrugged off news of further losses totalling £7 million, up from £4 million last time, with a rise of 16p at 188½p. Dan Wagner, chief executive, is bullish about prospects and is forecasting the group will achieve profitability in the current year. MAID has been the subject of several bear raids in recent months, which have left it well below last year's peak of 341p.

VideoLogic put on 1¼p at 57½p after announcing plans to link up with NEC Electronics to launch PCX2, billed as the second generation of 3D processor based on the PowerVR system. The new processor is 50 per cent more powerful than early models.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices in London followed German bunds lower in thin trading. Index-linked issues suffered falls for the second day in a row as the Bank of England confirmed it would be increasing the amount of stock in issue during the next financial year.

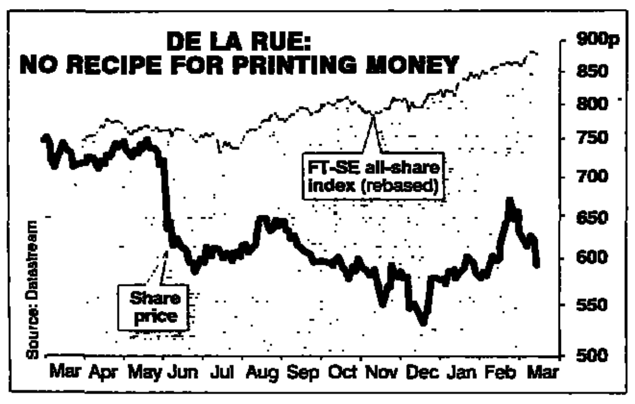
In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt fell £11/32 to £111⅛ as a modest 55,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell almost £½ to £104 27/32, while Treasury 8 per cent was £⅛ easier at £103⅝.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares and bonds were down in morning trade after February retail sales data revived concerns that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates this month. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 65.04 points lower at 6,974.33.

Luke Johnson and David Page of PizzaExpress, which rose 9p on expansion plans and a broker's "buy" report

Lynx Holdings, the computer software and services group, has come off its high of 113p reached earlier this year. It dipped ½p to 103p yesterday. Whispers circulating in the Square Mile claim there is a big seller waiting in the wings hoping to take advantage of the recent share price strength.



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 6974.33 (-65.04)
S&P Composite .... 798.55 (-5.71)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 17900.48 (-282.79)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 12935.62 (-183.51)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 758.03 (-1.38)

Sydney:
AO .... 2452.6 (-1.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 3349.81 (-65.59)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2154.33 (-23.06)

Brussels:
General .... 12193.35 (-102.39)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2632.10 (-9.60)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 961.50 (-8.40)

London:
FT 30 .... 2907.3 (-15.3)
FT 100 .... 4397.7 (-24.8)
FTSE Mid 250 .... 4730.2 (-4.9)
FTSE 350 .... 2175.2 (-10.2)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 .... 2183.53 (-20.94)
FT All-Share .... 2146.8 (-9.25)
FT Non Financials .... 2198.21 (-8.86)
FT Fixed Interest .... 119.35 (-0.08)
FT Govt Secs .... 95.20 (-0.30)
Bargains 55017
SEAQ Volume 863.5m
US$ .... 1.5973 (+0.0043)
German Mark .... 2.7173 (+0.0068)
Exchange Index .... 97.0 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.3920
£:SDR 1.1586
RPI .... 154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo-Welsh	103½	...
Aortech	122½	...
Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Birmingham City	51½	- 2
C&B Publishing	175	...
Calidore Warrants	1	...
Cambridge Mini Res	13½	...
Centrica (75½)	61	- 1½
Core Group	328	...
Dobbies Garden	260	...
Energy Group (525)	517½	- 4
Girovend Csh Sys	188½	...
Howle	30½	...
Infobank Intl	175	- 1½
Nord Anglo Eductn	159	- 1½
Psd Group	270½	+ 10½
River & Merc 1st UK	100	...
Screen	5½	- ¼
TR Euro Gwth Wrts	60½	...
Technoplast	113½	...
Usher of Trowbridge	123½	...
VFG	41½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Grantchstr n/p (137)	39½	+ 2
PTS n/p (100)	22½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Shield Diag	805p (+87½p)
MAID	188½p (+16p)
Capita Group	770p (+57½p)
Perry Group	223½p (+13p)
Davis Service	258p (+14p)
Abbey	205p (+10p)
Bunzl	232p (+10½p)
WPP	276p (+11½p)

FALLS:

English Nat	195p (-12½p)
Plasmon	198p (-11p)
De La Rue	592½p (-24p)
Argos	*640p (-24p)*
Hadleigh	321p (-11½p)
EMI	1195p (-41p)
Rentokil Intl	403p (-12½p)
Next	618½p (-17p)
JJB Sports	410p (-11p)
Commercial Union	688p (-15½p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Ill-fitting Coats

WE KNEW that textiles was a tough business, but was it supposed to be this tough? Coats Viyella's December trading statement outlined most of the bad news about foreign textile markets and weakness in handknits in the UK. What emerged yesterday was the horrendous margins at the core of Coats Viyella's clothing business.

Coats has a £600 million business making clothes, both branded under the Berghaus label and under contract, mainly for Marks & Spencer. The whole business suffered a profits slide but the bulk of the setback was in contract clothing which last year made only £7 million on some £400 million in turnover.

A cynic might wonder whether Coats was unnecessarily subsidising the profits of Britain's favourite retailer. A margin of 1½ per cent is hardly worth such a struggle but Coats insists that the problems were internal rather than market-related. Heavy restructuring — four factories closed in the UK — seems to have caused such confusion that the business of turning rags into riches was, temporarily, forgotten. Coats reckons it should get back to 5 per cent margins, but not this year, and in the long term Coats hopes to achieve a 7 per cent return from sales.

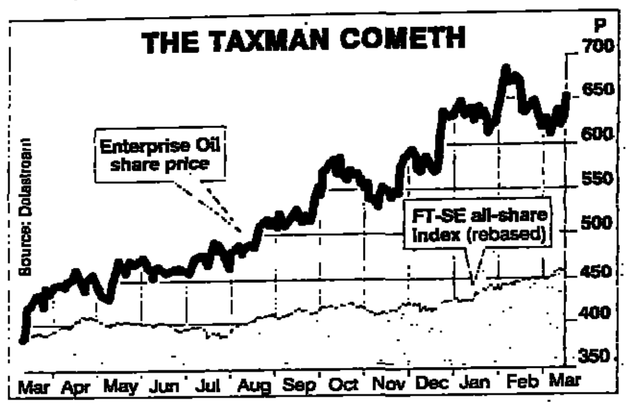
The contract clothing business employs assets worth £100 million. At current returns it is destroying shareholder value and needs to make £18 million if it is to meet its cost of capital. Michael Ost, the incoming chief executive, might think twice about keeping it but Coats needs the clothing business, one of the few that generates sterling profits to pay the dividend. That dividend is not looking very well covered.

Enterprise Oil

RELIEF that Enterprise Oil is not about to throw away all its hard-won gains into a bid for British Borneo Petroleum, explains in part the share price surge yesterday. The company is not ruling out acquisitions but it at least gave comfort that it is not targeting one of the most expensive oil stocks on the market.

The earnings outlook is not brilliant. Shrinking oil price expectations mean that net profits for the current year could be £10 million lower. More disappointing than the oil price is the tax take, which is likely to remain at a high level of 60 per cent because of Enterprise's investments in high-tax Norway. Meanwhile, Enterprise will soon begin to pay petroleum revenue tax on its income from the Scott and Nelson fields, which had the misfortune of coming on stream before the Government abolished PRT on new fields.

All is not fiscal gloom. Enterprise pays less tax in Italy, and the US Gulf is a tax-friendly oil province. But the reason investors like Enterprise is its success in finding oil. Last year the company had a one in three success rate on exploration wells, high for the industry. If Enterprise can repeat its trick of gaining a barrel of oil for every pound spent, the company should add another 150 million barrels to its reserves. As a play on asset growth, Enterprise has few equals on the market but profits may have to wait.



Source: Datastream

Legal & General

LEGAL & GENERAL provided further evidence of the sustained recovery in the life and savings market with a 14 per cent increase in worldwide life and pensions operating profit.

L&G is mainly a life company: its general insurance book is almost entirely household, having sold its commercial lines business to Guardian Insurance at the start of the year. Its exposure to the cut-throat motor market — where many of its competitors came a cropper last year — is tiny.

With such good growth, L&G would be an attractive purchase for an overseas investor seeking UK life profits, but L&G insists it has received no offers and is keen to remain independent.

It is sticking to what it knows best — life and savings — and says it has no intention to grow its general insurance book through acquisitions. In the wider context, the strategy looks sound. Motor premium rates are low and likely to remain that way. Meanwhile, other insurers, are looking for ways of muscling into profitable life insurance.

Christian Salvesen

SIR GERARD ELLIOT may have failed in his attempted *coup d'état* at Christian Salvesen, but he will derive some comfort in seeing that some of the mud he flung at his opponents appears to be sticking.

If the company is so happy to take on 100 per cent gearing in exchange for a £100 million special dividend, it becomes all the more curious why it was not prepared to borrow to invest in its own business.

As it stands, it will now become a highly geared company owning capital-intensive businesses. It has effectively consigned itself to a commercial tightrope until the debt is paid off, leaving little room to be blown off course. The first fundraiser has been the disposal of its US warehouses, which have delivered flat results for three years and showed limited scope for growth.

All eyes will now fall on Aggreko, the next business to walk the plank, this time via demerger. The division is in good health, and would certainly attract the attention of Caterpillar, with whom it competes in the US. Aggreko is Salvesen's strongest card, and to misplay it would be fatal, but the board have not put themselves in a strong position; the demerger effectively puts a for sale sign on the whole group.

Some comfort can be taken in the £150 million payback scheme, but the giveaway serves to underline the lunacy of rejecting the 380p-per-share takeover approach from Hays. Shareholders should take the special dividend and bid farewell.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	996-990	May	1049 SLR
May	1007-1006	Jul	1063 SLR
Jul	1015 BID	Sep	1075 SLR
Sep	1022-1020	Dec	1088 BID
Dec	1022-1020		
Mar	1034-1036		Volume: 6044

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1710-1705	Nov	1657-1650
May	unq	Jan	1657-1625
Jul	[illegible]	Mar	1622-1600
Sep	1670-1672		Volume: 5146

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	301.0-00.0
Spot: 309.5		Mar	302.0-01.1
May	305.1-04.5	May	304.6-09.3
Aug	304.4-07.6	Jun	unq
Oct	301.0-00.1		Volume: 794

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 12

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	95.13	15[illegible]	[illegible]
(+/-)	+1.52	+5.[illegible]	[illegible]
Eng/Wales:	95.13	152.43	[illegible]
(+/-)	+1.52	+5.30	+1.42
(%)	+10.0	+10.0	[illegible]
Scotland:	unq	148.10	101.32
(+/-)		+7.49	-1.17
(%)		+50.0	-19.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.50	+0.45
Brent 15 day (Apr)	20.00	+0.50
Brent 15 day (May)	19.60	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.90	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.90	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	209 (+4)	211 (+4)
Gasoil EEC	170 (+3)	171 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	82 (+3)	84 (+3)
Naphtha	197 (+5)	200 (+4)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	196.00-96.25	Jul	172.75-73.25
May	170.50-70.75	Aug	174.00 BID
Jun	171.50-71.75		Vol: 9299

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	20.00-20.04	Jul	19.43 BID
May	19.59-19.61	Aug	19.37-19.47
Jun	19.50 BID		Vol: 31612

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	96.80
May	98.70
Jul	101.00
Sep	93.50
Nov	95.00
	Volume: 249

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	90.00
May	90.50
Sep	91.00
Nov	93.00
Jan	95.00
	Volume: 30

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	51.5	51.8
May	57.5	57.7
Jun	unq	69.0
		Volume: 40

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Apr 82.00-82.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1520	1515	1505
Apr 97	1625	1595	1595
May 97	1580	1565	1565
Jul 97	1540	1530	1520
Vol: 264 lots		Open interest: 2 [illegible]	

Index 1465 +11

(Official) (Volume prev day) LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2280.0-2281.0	2350.0-2351.0	145750
Lead ($/tonne)	699.0-700.00	694.50-695.50	270275
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1255.0-1256.0	1276.0-1276.5	779775
Tin ($/tonne)	6035.0-6045.0	6045.0-6050.0	45605
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1634.0-1635.0	1665.0-1666.0	1216450
Nickel ($/tonne)	7940.0-7950.0	8055.0-8056.0	63115

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom...	420	30	37½	45	4	14	15
(*444½)	460	7	16	26	21	35	39
ASDA...	110	5	9	10	2	5	6
(*113)	120	1	4	6	9	11	12
Boots...	650	31	47	55	6	19	24
(*675)	700	7½	21	28½	30	45	51
Br Airways	650	22	38	49	15	29½	35
(*655)	700	5	18	25	47½	60	65½
BP...	700	23	40½	52	16	30	35
(*707)	750	5	19	30	49	59½	66
Br Steel	140	10	22	22	18	4	5½
(*158)	160	4	9	10	6	13	15
C & W...	500	21	36	46	12½	25	33
(*507)	550	4	15	29	44	55½	62
CU...	700	31	69	74½	24½	46	65½
(*702½)	750	12	39	52	52½	71	89
ICI...	700	49	68	76	4	11½	20½
(*743)	750	17	37	47	20	30½	42
Land Sec...	750	43	54	66	2½	15	20
(*786)	800	11	23	32	20½	40	45
M & S...	460	27	35	43	4	13	15
(*481)	500	6	15	21	23	33	35
Nat West...	700	51	74	83½	5	18	26
(*742)	750	19	45	56	25	38	51
Safeway plc	360	14	23	29	8½	19	24½
(*364)	390	4	10	17	26	39	43
Sainsbury	330	20	25	31	5	11	13½
(*351)	350	4½	10½	17	17	27½	30
Shell...	1050	45	57	72½	20½	36	44
(*1081)	1100	18	34½	48½	50	62	71
Smkl Bch...	900	38	82	101	11	26½	37½
(*943)	950	29	55	74½	31½	51	60
Storehse...	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar...	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	66	124	160	45	79½	96
(*1830)	1900	25	77½	112	104½	137	149

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind...	550	20	38	49	21	35½	45
(*563)	600	5	20	29	55	66	76
Vodafone...	280	14	25	31½	8	16	20
(*284)	300	5	16	22	19	27½	31

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met...	500	30	46	53	8	13	17
(*519)	500	14	24½	32½	23½	31	35½
Ladbroke	220	19½	26	29	2	6½	9
(*238)	240	8	14½	19	12	15½	18
Utd Biscs	220	19	24	30	4	6	12
(*247)	240	7	14½	20	15	19	22

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA...	500	39	49½	55	2	10½	14
(*534)	550	9	20½	27½	21	33½	36½
Thames W	650	40	60	71½	7	28½	31
(*680)	700	18	40½	45	25	54½	56

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR...	260	18	24½	29	7	10½	13½
(*270)	280	7	15	19	16	20	23½
Br Aero...	1350	67½	105	126	36½	52½	64½
(*1365½)	1400	43	79½	100	62½	79½	88
Br Telcm...	420	26½	36	39	7½	18½	22½
(*434)	460	8½	17	19½	29	43½	46
Cadbury...	500	54½	63	67½	4½	10	13½
(*553)	550	20½	32	39	22½	29	33
Guinness	460	23	34	40	13	21	22
(*476)	500	7	16	22	38½	43½	45
GEC...	360	32½	39	43	4	11½	14½
(*384)	390	14	21½	26½	15	26	29
Hanson...	300	17½	25	29½	10	13	17
(*305)	330	5½	11½	16	28	30	33½
LASMO...	220	23	30½	37½	5½	7½	9½
(*235)	240	13	20	23	13	15½	17
LucasVarity	200	13½	19½	23	8	10½	14½
(*208)	220	5	11	14½	19½	22	26
Pilkington	140	13	18	—	4½	9	—
(*146)	160	5	9	—	16	20	—
Prudential	550	44	57½	69½	11½	19	26
(*584)	600	19½	31½	41½	35½	43	50
Redland	360	21	21	36½	17½	25½	28
(*362)	390	8	16½	24½	38	44	46
R-Royce	240	18½	26½	30	9½	15	17
(*254)	260	9	17½	21½	20½	25½	27
Tesco	330	25	31	36½	8	12	16
(*349)	360	8½	16½	22	23½	26	32
Williams...	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4421)

	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500	4550
Calls						
Mar	120½	76	36	12½	2½	1
Apr	145½	108	77	51	30	15½
May	169	135	109	77	55½	37
Jun	201	166	133	106	82	61
Dec	417	—	252	—	202	—
Puts						
Mar	6	12½	26	57	96	149
Apr	33	46	65	90	121	158
May	57	73	91	115	142	176
Jun	73	90	107½	132	156	189
Dec	141	—	179½	—	225½	

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abby Nat	750	44	69	87	6	23½	34
(*781)	800	18	42	56	31	47½	57
Amstrad...	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays...	1100	70	75	92	19	37	55½
(*1115)	1150	16	50	67	45	62	80
Natl Pwr...	450	47	—	—	—	—	—
(*493)	500	12½	32	32½	17½	38	44

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W...	1100	47½	79½	94	21½	45	61
(*1139)	1150	19½	51	69½	49	69	87
HSBC...	1500	99½	145	172½	17	48	73½
(*1597)	1600	34	90½	119½	61½	97½	119
Reuters...	600	46	64	73	7½	17½	23
(*643½)	650	15½	34	47	28	39½	45
Royal & Sun	400	39	46	50	4½	13	20
(*409)	500	9	24	35	23	32	30½

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ...	390	24	C	37½	13	14	23
(*404)	420	9	15	24	30	35	40

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfshr...	650	47	57	69	12	22	27
(*687)	700	18	32½	43	38	45	51

	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Br Gas...	220	10	17½	—	1½	13	—
(*229)	240	2	7½	—	11½	24½	

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons...	500	18	31	48½	2	16½	27
(*515)	550	0	16	25½	35	44	54
EMI Group	1200	42	98	113	4½	34½	56
(*1236)	1250	14	62½	96	25	57	77
Tarmac...	100	4	9	11	1	5½	6
(*103)	110	0½	3½	7	7	11	12
Hillsdwn...	180	10½	13	15	0½	7	8½
(*190)	200	0½	3½	6	10½	21	21½
Lonrho...	140	8	14	17	1	5	7
(*148)	160	0	5	8	12	15½	18
Sears...	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins...	280	10	21½	26	1	9	16
(*289)	300	1	11	16	11½	18½	25
Lloyds TSB	500	26½	41	51	1½	15	23
(*519)	550	0	17	27	31	41	49
Scot Pwr...	340	5	20	26	5	14	21½
(*361)	390	0	8	13½	29	32	42
Unilever...	1500	119	116½	144	0	20	32
(*1595)	1600	17	54½	87	15	60	73

March 13 1997 Tot: 56734 Call: 25022 Put: 31711 FTSE Call: 4995 Put: 13013
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 97	111-23	111-26	111-21	111-20	3026
Previous open interest: 194531	Jun 97	111-07	111-12	111-01	111-04	56329
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	101.62	101.63	101.37	101.42	202662
Previous open interest: 240400	Sep 97				100.55	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	125.30	126.30	125.20	125.97	83254
Previous open interest: 106274	Sep 97	125.70	125.70	125.70	125.92	100
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	126.32	126.38	126.25	126.32	1544
	Sep 97				124.94	0
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.74	93.76	93.74	93.75	5728
	Jun 97	93.55	93.57	93.55	93.56	11923
Previous open interest: 537049	Sep 97	93.35	93.37	93.33	93.35	11910
Three Mth Euromark	Mar 97	96.73	96.74	96.73	96.74	6426
Previous open interest: 1300361	Jun 97	96.72	96.74	96.71	96.73	29076
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 97	92.56	92.67	92.56	92.63	11310
Previous open interest: 286725	Jun 97	92.90	93.04	92.89	93.01	28256
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97				99.42	0
	Sep 97	99.32	99.32	99.32	99.33	500
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 97	98.06	98.11	98.06	98.11	5227
Previous open interest: 111863	Jun 97	98.11	98.17	98.11	98.16	11915
Three Mth ECU	Mar 97	95.72	95.76	95.72	95.75	1940
Previous open interest: 35319	Jun 97	95.72	95.75	95.70	95.74	2187
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4397.0	4401.0	4373.0	4397.0	10625
Previous open interest: 74343	Jun 97	4417.0	4420.0	4394.0	4408.5	5754

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth 5⁷⁄₁₆; 3 mth 5⅞ Sell: 2 mth 5⅝; 3 mth 5⅞

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6, close 6					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.37	n/a	5.47	5.66	5.94
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $351.40-351.80 **Close:** $352.70 **High:** $352.40-353.90
Low: $350.95-350.45 **AM:** $351.45 **PM:** $352.90

Krugerrand: $351.75-354.75 (£220.50-222.50)

Platinum: $382.00 (£238.75) **Silver:** $5.20 (£3.295) **Palladium:** $152.00 (£95.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for March 13	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0507-3.0553	3.0556-3.0563	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	55.920-56.108	55.002-56.108	14-4pr	40-33pr
Copenhagen	10.341-10.374	10.363-10.373	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0225-1.0246	1.0247-1.0252	5-1pr	15-4pr
Frankfurt	2.7110-2.7187	2.7160-2.7167	[illegible]pr	2-1pr
Lisbon	272.23-273.19	272.79-273.10	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	229.99-230.70	230.48-230.70	6-4pr	26-11pr
Milan	2695.6-2712.8	2702.7-2709.5	26-12ds	75-47ds
Montreal	2.1746-2.1874	2.1756-2.1760	0.59-0.54pr	1.20-1.12pr
New York	1.5964-1.6046	1.5963-1.5968	0.95-0.75pr	0.268-0.237pr
Oslo	10.873-10.825	10.914-10.925	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	9.1400-9.1730	9.1527-9.1626	2½-2pr	6½-6½pr
Stockholm	12.201-12.292	12.243-12.261	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	195.68-196.90	196.03-196.28	[illegible]pr	2-2½pr
Vienna	19.075-19.134	19.114-19.134	[illegible]pr	1-1½pr
Zurich	2.3234-2.3351	2.3297-2.3325	[illegible]pr	2-2½pr

Source: Extel *Premium pr. Discount ds*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2615-1.2623
Austria	11.95-11.96
Belgium (Com)	35.01-35.06
Canada	1.3625-1.3630
Denmark	6.4814-6.4834
France	5.7275-5.7285
Germany	1.6984-1.6991
Hong Kong	7.7432-7.7442
Ireland	1.5586-1.5606
Italy	1690.25-1691.25
Japan	122.60-122.65
Malaysia	2.4760-2.4765
Netherlands	1.9114-1.9119
Norway	6.8122-6.8194
Portugal	170.62-170.67
Singapore	1.4335-1.4345
Spain	144.10-144.15
Sweden	7.6438-7.6513
Switzerland	1.4565-1.4575

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5985-1.6006
Australia dollar	2.0139-2.0164
Bahrain dinar	0.5965-0.6085
Brazil real*	1.6820-1.6864
China yuan	13.091-13.301
Cyprus pound	0.8035-0.8135
Finland markka	8.0250-8.1410
Greece drachma	421.75-428.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.3597-12.3600
India rupee	56.82-57.78
Indonesia rupiah	3804.0-3872.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4800-0.4900
Malaysia ringgit	3.9522-3.9555
New Zealand dollar	2.2856-2.2886
Pakistan rupee	63.60 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7550-5.8790
Singapore dollar	2.2880-2.2910
S Africa rand (com)	6.9910-7.0030
U A E dirham	5.8050-5.9290

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,100	Land Secs	823
ASDA Gp	8,200	Legal & Gn	2,300
Abbey Ntl	1,800	Lloyds TSB	14,100
Allied Dom	2,500	LucasVarity	5,700
Argos	1,300	Marks Spr	5,200
AB Foods	65	Mercury Assel	272
BAA	2,300	NatWst Bk	5,400
BAT Inds	8,100	Nat Grid	15,400
BG	17,000	Nat Power	2,700
BOC	2,100	Next	2,700
BP	6,100	Orange	1,400
BSkyB	2,200	P & O	1,400
BTR	13,800	Pearson	1,100
BT	15,300	PowerGen	3,000
Bk of Scot	4,000	Prudential	6,200
Barclays	5,500	RMC	295
Bass	1,300	RTZ	3,100
Blue Circle	450	Railtrack	2,300
Boots	1,000	Rank Group	1,500
BAe	1,200	Reckitt Col	2,000
BA	2,100	Reed Intl	2,200
Brit Steel	21,900	Rentkl Inl	23,800
Burmah Csl	790	Reuters	3,200
Burton	4,200	Rolls Royce	2,700
Cable Wire	1,800	Royal & Sun	3,200
Cadbury	8,000	Royal Bk Sct	1,200
Carlton Cms	1,800	Safeway	3,700
Centrica	58,400	Sainsbury	3,900
Cm Union	1,200	Schroders	150
Dixons	2,700	Scot & New	983
EMI	946	Scot Power	1,700
Energy Gp	2,500	Svrn Trent	952
Enterpr Oil	4,200	Shell Trans	3,300
GKN	1,400	Siebe	2,000
GRE	5,000	SmKl Bch	3,000
GUS	2,300	Smith Nph	3,300
Gen Acc	968	Smiths Inds	1,100
Gen Elec	2,800	Std Chard	2,300
Glaxo Well	5,000	TI Gp	302
Granada	2,200	Tate & Lyle	222
Grand Met	5,500	Tesco	2,400
Guinness	4,300	Thames W	270
HSBC	2,400	Tomkins	3,900
Hanson	2,600	Unilever	1,100
Hays	1,700	Utd Utilities	838
ICI	1,500	Utd News	1,000
Imp Tob	3,400	Vodafone	12,300
Kingfisher	2,400	Whitbread	554
LASMO	2,700	Wolseley	516
Ladbroke	9,500	Zeneca	2,600

WALL STREET

	Mar 13 midday	Mar 12 close
AMP Inc	38	38
AMR Corp	85	85
ASA	36	36
AT & T	35	35
Abbott Labs	58	59
Advanced Micro	47	45
Aetna Life	91	92
Ahmanson (HF)	41	41
Air Prod & Chem	73	74
AirTouch Comm	25	26
Alberto-Culver B	27	27
Albertson's	35	36
Alcan Alumnm	37	37
Allied Signal	74	74
Alum Co of Am	74	75
Amax Gold Inc	7	7
Amerada Hess	53	53
Amer Brands	52	52
Amer El Power	40	40
Amer Express	60	60
Amer Genl Corp	42	43
Amer Home Pr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amer Intl	125	126
Amer Stores	44	44
Amer Standard	47	47
Ameritech	61	61
Amoco	87	88
Anheuser-Busch	43	43
Apple Computer	16	16
Archer Daniels	18	18
Armco	3	4
Armstrng Wrld	70	70
Asarco	32	32
Atl Richfield	129	125
Auto Data Pro	44	46
Avery Dennison	42	42
Avon Products	60	59
Baker Hughes	37	37
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	40	40
BankAmerica	119	119
Bank of NY	40	40
Bankers Tr NY	91	92
Barnett Banks	48	48
Bausch & Lomb	37	37
Baxter Intl	46	47
Bectn Dicknsn	47	47
Bell Atlantic	65	65
Bell Industries	*21*	*22*
BellSouth	43	43
Black & Decker	33	33
Block (H&R)	30	30
Boeing	106	107
Boise Cascade	33	33
Bristol Myrs Sq	65	66
Browning Ferris	30	30
Brunswick	29	29
Burlington Nthn	83	83
CMS Energy Corp	31	32
CNA Financial	114	114
CPC Intl	84	84
CSX	51	51
Campbell Soup	92	91
Can Pacific	26	26
Carolina Pwr	36	36
Caterpillar	80	81
Central & SW	25	25
Champion Intl	44	44
Chase Manhat	102	101
Chevron Corp	66	66
Chrysler	31	31
Chubb Corp	61	61
Cigna Corp	156	157
Citicorp	121	122
Clorox	121	121
Coastal Corp	47	47
Coca Cola	60	61
Coca Cola Ent	62	62
Colgate-Palm	109	110
Columbia Gas	60	60
ColumbiaHCA	41	41
Compaq Comp	80	79
Comp Ass Intl	40	40
Conagra	54	54
Conrail	112	112
Cons Edison	30	30
Cons Nat Gas	52	53
Cooper Inds	46	46
Corestates	51	51
Corning Inc	35	35
Crown Cork	53	55
Dana Corp	31	31
Dayton Hudson	37	37
Deere	44	44
Delta Air Line	80	80
Deluxe Corp	32	32
Digital Equip	31	30
Dillard Dept St	31	31
Disney (Walt)	75	75
Dominion Res	36	36
Donnelley (RR)	36	36
Dover Corp	51	51
Dow Chemical	80	80
Dow Jones	41	41
Dresser	31	31
Duke Power	45	45
Dun & Bradstreet	26	26
Du Pont	111	112
Eastman Chem	56	56
Eastman Kodak	81	81

	Mar 13 midday	Mar 12 close
Eaton Corp	72	73
Edison Intl	21	21
Elect Data Sys	44	45
Emerson Elec	49	50
Engelhard Corp	23	23
Enron Corp	40	40
Entergy	25	26
Ethyl Corp	9	8
Exxon	101	101
FMC Corp	66	66
FPL Group	44	44
Federal Express	54	54
First Bk Sys	81	81
First Union Rlty	13	13
Fleet Finl Grp	61	62
Fluor Corp	64	64
Ford Motor	32	32
GTE Corp	45	45
Gannett	87	82
Gap Inc Del	35	35
Gencorp	19	19
Gen Dynamic	68	68
Gen Electric	104	104
Gen Mills	62	63
Gen Motors	58	57
Gen Reinsurance	174	174
Gen Signal	39	40
Genuine Parts	47	47
Georgia Pac	77	76
Gillette	80	81
Glaxo Welle ADR	35	36
Goodrich (BF)	40	40
Goodyear Tire	53	53
Gt Atl Pac Tea	28	28
Great Wstn Fin	46	47
Halliburton	67	67
Harcourt General	47	47
Heinz (HJ)	41	42
Hercules	40	46
Hershey Foods	48	46
Hewlett Packard	55	54
Hilton Hotels	24	25
Home Depot	56	56
Homestake Mng	16	16
Honeywell	74	74
Household Intl	90	90
Houston Inds	21	21
Humana	22	22
ITT Corp	59	59
Ikon Office	30	30
Illinois Tool	86	86
Illinova	24	24
INCO	36	36
Ingersoll Rand	47	47
Inland Steel	19	20
Intel Corp	142	142
IBM	145	144
Intl Flav & Fr	46	46
Intl Paper	42	43
James River Va	33	34
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	60	60
Kellogg	67	67
Kerr-Mcgee	63	63
Kimberly-Clark	108	109
Kmart	12	12
Knight-Ridder	38	39
Lilly (Eli)	86	86
Limited Inc	19	20
Lincoln Nat	60	60
Litton	40	41
Liz Claiborne	43	44
Lockheed Martin	88	89
Louisiana Pac	21	21
MCI Comm	36	36
Manpower Inc	38	39
Marriott Intl	51	51
Marsh & McLnn	127	128
Masco Corp	36	36
May Dept St	46	46
Maytag Corp	22	22
McDonalds	44	44
McDonnell D	60	60
McGraw Hill	52	52
Mead Corp	58	58
Medtronic	66	66
Mellon Bk	84	84
Merck Inc	92	92
Merrill Lynch	90	90
Microsoft	96	96
Minnesota Mng	90	90
Mobil Corp	129	130
Monsanto	41	41
Morgan (JP)	107	107
Motorola Inc	57	57
Natl Semi	28	28
Natl Service Ind	37	37
Navistar Intl	9	9
NY Times A	44	44
Newmont Min	44	44
Nlag Mohawk	9	9
Nike B	60	60
NL Industries	10	10
Norand Engrs	14	15
Nordstrom	38	38
Norfolk Sthrn	86	87
Nthn State Pwr	47	47
Northrop Corp	81	81
Norwest Corp	48	48
Occidental Pet	24	24
Ohio Edison	21	21

	Mar 13 midday	Mar 12 close
Oracle	35	34
Oryx Energy Co	19	19
Overseas Ship	17	17
Owens Corning	43	43
PHH Corp	48	48
PPG Industries	56	56
PNC Bank	43	44
PP&L Res	21	21
Paccar Inc	71	72
Pacificorp	20	20
Pac Enterprises	30	30
Pac Telesis	39	40
Pall Corp	23	23
Parker Hannifin	45	45
Penn Energy	21	21
Penney (JC)	50	51
Pennzoil	53	53
Pepsico	31	32
Pfizer	94	94
Pharm & Upjhn	38	39
Phelps Dodge	76	77
Philip Morris	135	138
Phillips Pet	40	40
Pitney Bowes	62	63
Polaroid	41	41
Procter & Gmbl	125	125
Providian	58	58
Pub Serv E & G	26	26
Quaker Oats	37	37
Ralston Purina	84	85
Raychem Corp	86	87
Raytheon	47	47
Reebok Intl	49	49
Reynolds Metals	64	65
Rockwell Intl	67	67
Rohm & Haas	92	93
Royal Dutch	175	176
Rubbermaid	23	24
SBC Comms	55	56
Safeco Corp	40	40
St Paul's Cos	71	71
Salomon Inc	56	56
Sara Lee Corp	39	39
Schering Plough	79	80
Schlumberger	104	104
Seagram	39	39
Sears Roebuck	56	56
Shell Trans	*103*	*103*
Sherwin Wlms	55	56
Skyline Corp	23	24
Snap-On-Tools	40	40
Southern Co	21	21
Sprint Corp	43	44
Stanley Works	39	39
Sun Company	27	28
Sun Microsys	30	29
Suntrust	52	53
Supervalu	31	31
Sysco Corp	34	34
TRW Inc	55	55
TCC Inds	1	1
Tandem Comp	12	12
Tandy Corp	53	52
Temple Inland	55	55
Tenneco	40	40
Texaco	101	102
Texas Inst	85	84
Texas Utilities	36	37
Textron	102	102
Time Warner	42	43
Times-Mirror A	53	54
Timken	54	54
Torchmark	60	61
Toys R Us	28	28
Transamerica	87	88
Travelers	55	54
Tribune	39	39
Tyco Intl	59	60
UST Inc	33	34
UAL	69	68
US Inds	35	35
US West Comm	34	34
US West Media	19	19
USAirways Group	26	26
USX Marathon	27	27
Unicom	22	22
Unilever NV	187	188
Union Camp	49	49
Union Carbide	49	48
Union Pacific	60	61
Unisys Corp	6	6
USF&G Corp	22	22
US Life	48	48
United Tech	76	77
Unocal Corp	39	39
VF Corp	69	69
WMX Tech	31	32
Wal Mart Stores	25	25
Warner-Lambert	86	87
Wells Fargo	313	313
Westinghouse El	19	19
Weyerhaeuser	47	47
Whirlpool	50	50
Whitman	23	23
Winn Dixie	32	32
Woolworth	22	23
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	59	60
Xerox	62	62
Yellow Corp	16	16

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

When a tie becomes one

A BOND dealer at Bear Stearns splashed out £1,290 yesterday for a tie signed by the Spice Girls.

Gavin Gilbert pipped to the post players from houses including Warburgs and BZW. The auction, organised by Cityscreen, the real-time on-screen magazine, on the Reuters network, raised £15,000 in total for Comic Relief. Bidding went quiet during the late morning, but picked up considerably after some long and no doubt bibulous lunches.

Asked to name his favourite Spice Girl, Gilbert, 28, highlighted just how poor they are at the US securities house when it comes to matters of culture. "I know nothing about them," he boasted.

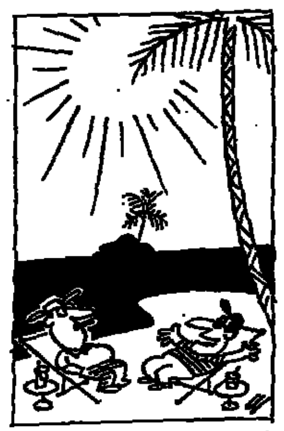
SINCE Sir Andrew Large announced that he will not serve a second term as SIB chairman, Saxton Bampfylde International has been brought in to assist the Treasury in the search for a replacement. Apparently it's more cost effective.

Sparke out

ABSENT from Cheltenham Festival this week was Jonathan Sparke. Normally in the best of form, stationed by the side of the racetrack, the managing director of City Index is, sadly, flat on his back in a London hospital. "The Gold Cup didn't seem quite the same without Sparkey laying the odds and quoting a price," a colleague sighed. Let's hope he's fighting fit for the Grand National.

Brian no more

COLIN PARSONS has been appointed deputy chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The appointment of the 63-year-old executive chairman of Taylor Woodrow comes as a source of great relief for the London chamber. "It brings to an end five years of Brians at the helm," a spokesman says. Parsons follows in the footsteps of Sir Brian Jenkins, current president, Brian Pearce of Pearce Signs, and Brian Harris, of Richard Ellis.



"OK, I said — suspend me — chop a few million off my bonus — see if I care"

BEWARE anyone telephoning Save & Prosper Direct tonight. The Romford call centre is dedicating 300 staff and 70 lines to answer pledges for Comic Relief. From 7pm until 11pm, the office will be juggling calls about Peps, unit trusts and Red Nose Day. Some staff will work until 2am before picking up the telephone again at 8am on Saturday.

Diary needed

CONFUSION reigns at Lonrho, after the departure of Dieter Bock and the arrival of Sir John Craven. Departing chairman Sir John Leahy, who will become a non-executive director in the new set-up, has been forced to fire off a letter informing shareholders that "the attendance record card attached to the form of proxy that accompanied the notice of the annual general meeting specifies that the meeting is to be held on Friday 26 March. This should of course be Wednesday 26 March."

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Where Germany stands on monetary union

The Government would do almost anything to avoid a big delay to the start of the single currency

When the German Government and the Bundesbank speak, the world sits up and listens. But when analysing the problems of the German economy and the prospects for economic monetary union, what politicians and central bankers say in public is less important than what they really think. To try to establish the latter I have spent the past few days in Germany speaking to politicians, senior officials and their aides. Below are my interpretations of what I heard.

First, regarding the stagnation of the German economy, which is now by far the most important obstacle to monetary union, there is an encouraging realism in the German business community. The official view that the German unemployment crisis has nothing to do with monetary policy and is purely a function of structural rigidities in the labour market is no longer universally endorsed outside the portals of the Bundesbank. More and more Germans openly mention a subject that even a year ago was completely taboo.

This is the fact that the economic recovery of 1994 was killed by a pathological hardening of the mark. That, in turn, was caused, at least in part, by the policy pursued by the Bundesbank. Consider the following comment by a successful industrialist and senior Free Democrat politician: "The present unemployment problem is part of what happened two years ago when our exchange rate went to DM1.37. That had the most serious consequences, especially for smaller and medium-sized German companies which could not hedge against such exchange rates and simply could not compete."

When pressed about what could have caused this disastrous overvaluation the politician added: "I would not publicly criticise the Bundesbank, which, of course, is completely independent of politicians, but it is hard to deny that monetary policy had something to do with the damage done by the overvalued mark."

The corollary of this statement is a view that German politicians may not yet be willing to state on the record, but which industrialists now widely espouse: an expansionary macroeconomic policy is increasingly recognised as an indispensable condition for a reduction of unemployment and resumption of adequate growth.

Reform of the labour market, reductions in taxes and public spending and greater flexibility of the economy's supply side are all necessary. But many Germans no longer seem to share the Bundesbank's confidence that supply side reforms are sufficient to cure unemployment, or the view that monetary policy cannot be used as an instrument for accelerating growth or reducing unemployment.

Indeed an acceleration of growth is exactly what the Bundesbank itself is now trying to achieve by keeping interest rates at record low levels, as are the two other central banks that allowed their currencies to become grotesquely overvalued in 1995: Switzerland and Japan. Largely as a result of the Bundesbank's undeclared conversion to more expansionary monetary policies about a year ago, the German economy is now clearly recovering. But Germany still depends for its momentum almost entirely on export growth. That means that any renewed strengthening of the mark against the dollar, the yen, and even sterling would spell serious trouble for Germany.

Helmut Kohl has political problems over trying to shoehorn Italy into EMU

Turning to EMU, the rumours that Germany is planning to delay the start of the single currency seem to be just that: rumours, with no realistic foundation. Most of the key members of the German ruling class, including the central bankers, remain firmly committed to EMU. Some talk quite breezily about a brief delay for technical reasons — for example, to allow enough time to elect the board of the new European Central Bank.

But when it comes to a delay of 12 months or longer it becomes clear that the Government of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, would do almost anything to avoid such a setback. Any delay beyond six months could well undermine the credibility of the whole EMU project. By exposing the French franc to possible speculation it might even threaten the geopolitical relationship between Germany and France.

Why, then, all the delay rumours? The official reason is that Germany itself may fail to meet the Maastricht convergence targets. Because of the weakness of the economy, the government deficit this year is widely expected to be well above the ceiling of 3 per cent of GDP.

From a strictly economic point of view it would not matter whether Germany missed this target by a few tenths of a point. This is readily acknowledged at the highest levels. Far more important than one year's precise deficit number is whether the underlying political culture is firmly opposed to inflation, whether government debt is prudently financed through long-term bond issues, rather than short-term borrowing, and whether structural public spending is under control. But in spite of Germany's generally good standing in terms of these fundamental criteria, there are three problems in simply assuming that EMU could go ahead.

The first problem is that the deficit could end up much higher than the 3 per cent ceiling — say in the 3.5 to 4 per cent range —and that would make it impossible to plead the favourable long-term fundamentals in defence. Secondly, it is still uncertain whether Germany really is getting to grips with its structural fiscal problems, given that the Government's tax and pensions reforms are currently stalled in the Bundesrat. Thirdly, there is the political trap that Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, has set for himself by insisting that EMU can go ahead only if Germany precisely meets the 3 per cent target. Herr Waigel hoped to reassure the German public but the danger now is that his slogan "three means three" will be used against him and will undermine confidence if Germany goes ahead with even a slightly higher deficit.

This last factor, however, should not be overestimated. As long as the deficit is reasonably near 3 per cent, the public could be reassured if the Bundesbank gave its support for a decision to go ahead, citing the favourable long-term stability factors. The trouble is that the Bundesbank could offer such reassurance on three conditions.

First, the Government really would have to be dealing convincingly wth some of the structural problems. Secondly, the budget deficit would have to be within reasonable distance of 3 per cent. Finally, the other countries involved in the single currency would have to command the same credibility and display the same long-term stability culture as Germany.

This leads to another possible motivation for all the rumours of delay — though certainly not one that anyone would admit to. This is the desire to prepare financial markets for the almost inevitable exclusion of Italy, Spain and Portugal from the first round of EMU.

And if it becomes clear that there is little chance of these countries joining the single currency in 1999, the markets could even solve the problem of how to shake off Italy and Spain without offending their governments simply by destabilising their currencies and bond markets and thus making them ineligible even to be considered for EMU.

How would such a rebuff be taken by Italy and the others? Talking to senior Italians last week left me much less alarmed than I had been a few months before about the Italian political establishment's ability to cope with an initial rejection. For public consumption Italian politicians still refuse to contemplate even the possibility of being left out of EMU, implying that such a humiliation would cause something akin to national nervous breakdown. Beneath the surface, however, they seem surprisingly realistic — acknowledging the political difficulties for Herr Kohl of trying to shoehorn Italy into EMU.

They also seemed to recognise that too much intransigence on Italy's part could destroy the whole single currency project and do far more damage to Italy than a year or two of waiting in the wings. With a bit of imagination and flexibility it might not be too difficult to design some form of associate membership that would virtually guarantee that Italy and Spain could join EMU as full members in 2002 when the euro-notes first come into use.

NatWest counts the cost of damage to its reputation

Jon Ashworth looks at the latest blow to hit the group in the wake of Blue Arrow

A sense of gloom hung heavily over the NatWest banking group yesterday. A succession of mispriced trades, a gaping "black hole", and all the old skeletons had come tumbling out — Blue Arrow, Bancorp, all those bad and doubtful debts. A handful of long-serving NatWest players had been suspended pending the outcome of an intensive inquiry. There was, to quote Derek Wanless, group chief executive, a sense of bereavement.

The uncovering of losses dating back as far as 1994 — and undetected, in spite of all the controls and procedures — has heavy overtones of Barings, and threatens to inflict lasting damage on NatWest's reputation. Lord Alexander of Weedon, the group chairman, acknowledged as much yesterday, when he said: "This incident has rightly caused great concern both inside and outside the bank."

Mr Wanless has acted swiftly and openly in tackling the black hole

The reputational cost to NatWest threatens to exceed by far the £77 million headline figure. Mr Wanless has acted swiftly and openly in his tackling of the "black hole" affair, but it is how he proceeds from now that will be telling. NatWest's clients have given him the benefit of the doubt, but the suggestion of a fundamental flaw in the bank's control systems — yet to be substantiated — sends a worrying message to the wider community.

Only relatively recently has NatWest emerged from the shadow of the Blue Arrow affair. In 1987, Blue Arrow, the employment agency, launched an £837 million rights issue to fund the $1.3 billion acquisition of Manpower, an American competitor, but the issue was a flop, and only 37 per cent of the rights were taken up. County NatWest, then NatWest's investment banking subsidiary, propped up the issue, and provided a secret indemnity to UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker.

Heads soon began to roll. Charles Villiers and Jonathan Cohen resigned as chairman and chief executive of County NatWest in February 1988, ostensibly blaming County's heavy losses in the 1987 crash. Elizabeth Brimelow, head of compliance, resigned some months later. Six other executives later resigned, including Lord Boardman, who stepped down as chairman of NatWest in July 1989, taking responsibility for "serious failings" in the group.

The subsequent Blue Arrow trials served simply to rub NatWest's nose deeper into the dirt. The lone survivor, Tom Frost — dubbed "Teflon Tom" because criticism never seemed to stick to him — finally succumbed in March 1992, when he stepped down as NatWest chief executive. He and his former colleagues were later cleared by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) of any dishonesty and impropriety in their dealings with DTI inspectors over the Blue Arrow affair.

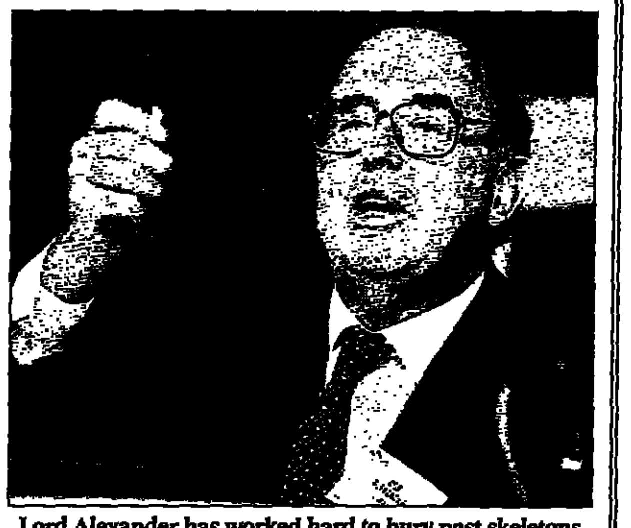
Mr Frost's departure — or rather, the appointment of Mr Wanless as his successor — marked the turning point for NatWest. Mr Wanless and Lord Alexander worked hard to rid NatWest of its old-fashioned, paternalistic structure and to lay past skeletons to rest. NatWest overhauled its corporate structure in January 1992, burying County NatWest, and creating NatWest Markets to take on corporate banking, treasury and investment banking operations.

The breakthrough has come in the past 18 months, with NatWest pulling out of retail banking in continental Europe and America; notably with the sale of NatWest Bancorp in New York. Last October, NatWest snapped up J O Hambro Magan, the corporate finance boutique headed by George Magan. The basic £20 million price tag could eventually top £150 million, if "golden handcuff" deals are triggered for up to 120 key players.

Other ambitious deals saw the acquisition of Gleacher & Co, an American corporate advisory boutique, and Gartmore, the UK fund manager.

A fortnight ago, NatWest announced pre-tax profits in 1996 of £1.12 billion, down from £1.75 billion. Mr Wanless, it was said, had taken four years to achieve his rationalisation. The market would now wait to see where he would take the bank next.

To find his own "rogue trader" lurking in the wings must have come as a deeply unpleasant surprise.



Lord Alexander has worked hard to bury past skeletons

BUSINESS LETTERS

Bonuses could be unacceptable face of financial services

From Mr Anthony Gee

Sir, To say that traders "take risks" is simply a euphemism for saying that they gamble with other people's money for the chance of a personal gain of millions, in, for the trader, a no-lose situation. Better than a lottery ticket — and the trader still gets a salary whatever happens. The banks' directors know what is going on — they offer the terms of employment — and they are therefore also involved. Perhaps they hope for personal kudos from bigger profits. But whose money is being gambled? Ask an investor in NatWest, or Barings, or in a pension scheme where advertising is seen to triumph over performance.

The City had better get its house in order sharpish. Government proposals that everyone will soon have to make private pension arrangements might well result in government policing. Bonuses of the type recently in the news could become "the unacceptable face of the financial services industry". Would that be such a bad thing?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GEE,
L'Enclos de la Tour,
32140 Samaran,
France.

Threat to UK utilities

From Professor C. J. Clarke

Sir, Pennington's "Dining on the last dodo" (February 25) made two interesting points. Firstly, that we might want to preserve two regional electricity companies (RECs) so that Professor Littlechild, the regulator, can have clean data for comparative purposes. Secondly, that perhaps now is the time for PowerGen to move in on a Rec.

It is not really necessary for Recs to be under independent ownership for Offer to have comparators. What is necessary is to ringfence the "wires", or monopoly side of utility accounts. The "supply" business, selling gas and electricity to customers, will be fully competitive by 1998 and, therefore, will not need such regulation.

Of more interest is the second issue, of PowerGen wanting a Rec. National Power's attempt on Southern Electric was blocked by the DTI in 1996. There is a clear trade-off in public policy between the need to create national champions to win in the huge international business for utility investment in developing markets and the need to benefit consumers in the UK by creating fragmented competition. By favouring the latter we may have merely turned our utilities into ready meals for international predators to consume in bite-sized chunks. They can then go on to dominate the global opportunity, and UK utilities will be the losers.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER J. CLARKE,
A T Kearney Limited,
Lansdowne House,
Berkeley Square, W1.

Fines on wrong track

From Mr Robert D. A. Pick

Sir, Few of my fellow long-suffering commuters would disagree that SouthWest Trains needs to be heavily penalised for its latest demonstration of incompetence. However, huge fines (Pennington, February 18) will only have the negative effect of providing SWT with a further excuse for its lack of investment.

What is needed is the more positive step of the regulator forcing SWT to spend the money it might have been fined on improving the network. He will not lack for suggestions from the travelling public.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT D. A. PICK,
The Old Vicarage,
Shamley Green,
Near Guildford,
Surrey.

Trade fair cutbacks 'grave mistake'

From the Director-General of the Institute of Export

Sir, The Institute of Export fully endorses the comments of Mr Langford (Business News, February 13) regarding the grave mistake the Government has made on trade fair support. This well-proven scheme successfully takes 9,000 UK companies to over 300 international trade fairs a year and generates half a billion pounds in new exports.

The "sector challenge" lottery does not offer new money. Rather it recycles an already small pot into a range of untried even smaller containers. Much will also be lost on the way overcoming new bureaucratic hurdles.

In 1995 Michael Heseltine promised an extra £40 million in export support, and 400 trade fairs a year. Now the overall budget is being cut and Anthony Nelson is claiming support for 300 trade fairs as a success! He also plans to throw the whole trade fair budget into "sector challenge" in 1999.

Our survey of 10,000 exporting companies in 1996 showed trade fairs support with a 96 per cent satisfaction rating. A survey conducted for the DTI by KPMG in 1994 showed that trade fairs generated nearly £400 million in new business — and made a profit for the Chancellor. In 1996, the National Audit Office concluded that "in-country support services much as trade fairs and missions generated the most new business".

To quote back the words of Mr Heseltine before Christmas: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." We have urged all our members and other UK exporters to tell Ian Lang and Michael Heseltine that, in the case of trade fair support, "it ain't, so don't"!

Yours faithfully,
IAN CAMPBELL,
Director-General,
The Institute of Export,
Export House,
64 Clifton Street,
London EC2.

Debt's double blow

From Mr Michael Russell

Sir, I can only agree with Peter Williams (letter, February 18), in that neither negative equity nor arrears causes the other. What he fails to point out is that it is the combination of long-term, unmeetable arrears *and* negative equity which closes the cell door on those who would otherwise sell up and trade down.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RUSSELL,
2 The Island,
Thames Ditton, Surrey.

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United Biscuits shows signs of modest recovery

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

UNITED BISCUITS confirmed that it is on the road to recovery yesterday as it reported a return to the black in 1996, after a £100 million dive into the red the previous year.

Shareholders are to enjoy the first, albeit modest, dividend increase since 1990. The final dividend will be 6.5p (6.3p), making a total of 10p for the year, up from 9.8p. The group is also reinstating its profit-sharing scheme for UK employees, who will receive £1 million in shares for 1996.

Despite the generally rosy picture, the group said that a handful of businesses, including KP crisps in the UK and its French and Benelux snack businesses, are still underperforming and further disposals are not ruled out.

In the 12 months to December 28, pre-tax profit after exceptionals was £24.4 million, compared with a loss of £100.6 million a year earlier. Pre-tax profit before exceptionals doubled from £49.7 million to £109.1 million.

Most of the exceptionals related to disposals last year, which also meant that sales were 34 per cent down at £1.99 billion, while borrowings fell sharply from £607 million to £215 million. This meant that gearing was down from 97 per cent to 35 per cent.

Eric Nicoli, chief executive, said that the recovery had been led by the UK operations and there had been strong sales of Penguins, which rose 24 per cent, Hula Hoops, which rose 10 per cent, and Skips, which rose 25 per cent. He also said that the judgment in a case brought against Asda, the supermarkets group, should arrive in the next few days. UB alleges that Asda has been "passing off" its own-label Puffin biscuits as Penguins.

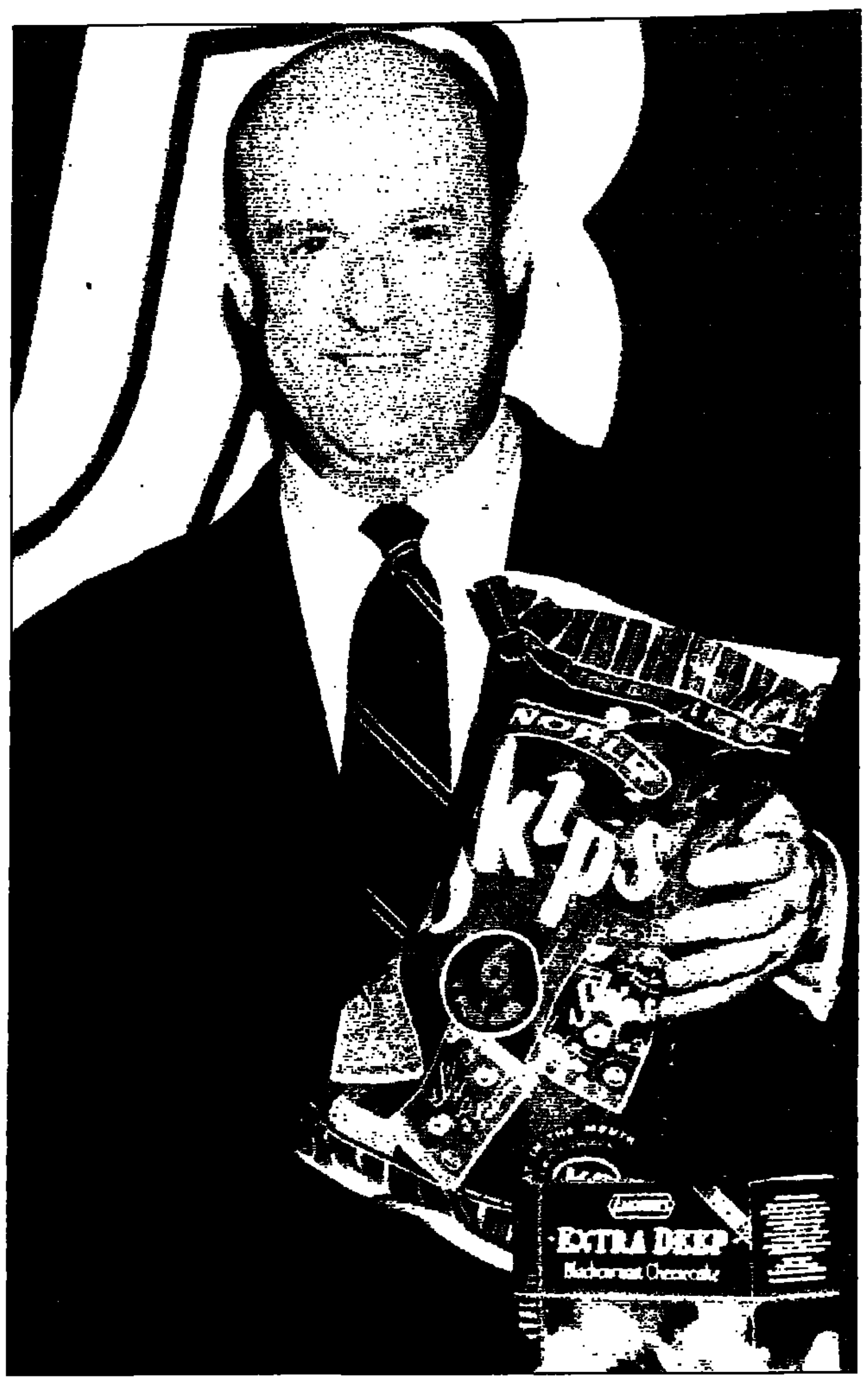
Mr Nicoli said that trading had been tough in Australia where Pepsi launched a big campaign based on giving away collectable Tazo discs with its products, but in the second half UB had begun to claw back lost market share.

Business in continental Europe, which made a loss in the first half, improved in the second six months of the year, with Verkade, the Dutch chocolates and biscuits subsidiary, staging a notable turnaround. The company also hopes that Asia will provide opportunities for long-term growth.

Earnings per share before exceptionals were 14.8p, compared with 4.8p a year ago. The dividend is payable on July 1.

United Biscuit's shares rose 12p to 249½p yesterday.

Pennington, page 27



Eric Nicoli, chief executive of United Biscuits: "Recovery was led by UK operations"

French share sale expected to trigger Woodchester bid

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

THE long-awaited sale by Crédit Lyonnais of its 54 per cent stake in Woodchester Investments, the Irish financial services group, is expected to trigger the largest takeover in the history of the Irish stock exchange.

The size of the French bank's stake means its sale will lead to a full bid for Woodchester, which is valued at Ir£600 million. Among the frontrunners for the company, which yesterday reported a 22 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£44 million, are GE Capital, the financial services group, and Lombard & Ulster, Ulster Bank's leasing subsidiary.

Woodchester's share price has risen sharply since Crédit Lyonnais started negotiations with the European Commission over a second rescue package involving a large injection of state aid. The Commission is expected to insist that the bank sells a large proportion of its non-French assets.

Craig McKinney, chairman and founder of Woodchester, said that he was confident of receiving a high level of interest from prospective purchasers. He holds about 2.5 million shares, currently worth more than Ir£7 million.

Mr McKinney said that the group's operations had shown strong growth in 1996, with new business advances reaching Ir£1.2 billion, up 38 per cent. Earnings per share were up 19 per cent, to 15.46p.

In the Republic of Ireland, the motor, agricultural equipment and business equipment finance sectors all performed well. In Northern Ireland, the company completed the acquisition of the financing arm of Charles Hurst, the region's largest motor group.

In the UK, new business advances were up 32 per cent on 1995, and in Denmark and Portugal the company continued to increase its market share.

In his results statement, Mr McKinney said: "Whilst the resolution of the Crédit Lyonnais shareholder issue is of key importance to the future of your group, it has not, and will not, deflect management's attention from the day-to-day running of the business."

The company declared a final dividend of 4.69p, giving a total of 7.85p, up 15 per cent, payable on May 16.

General Cable takes over Imminus for up to £33m

BY FRASER NELSON

GENERAL CABLE is to step up its presence in business telecommunications after agreeing to buy Imminus, a managed data network supplies company, for up to £33 million.

General's revenues rose by 45 per cent last year, to £91.1 million, and it became cash flow positive with an inflow of £8.7 million (outflow of £3.25 million). The company said that it has completed 89 per cent of its infrastructure under its Cable Corp subsidiary, and Birmingham Cable is 87 per cent complete.

Pre-tax losses deepened to an expected £29.8 million (£21.2 million loss). Losses per share were 9.6p (8.1p loss).

Sir Anthony Cleaver, the General Cable chairman, confirmed that talks have been held with a number of companies on the possibility of alliances or mergers, but declined to give details, and added that, in a fast-moving industry such as cable communications, "everybody talks to everybody".

On financing, Sir Anthony said: "We have in place all the finance needed to carry out our current business plans."

General Cable expects to receive a national telecoms licence later this year, allowing it to offer telephony services outside its current franchise areas. The company said that it will stay a niche player in telephony, with no intention of taking on BT nationally.

Court threat to Coutts Consulting

BY FRASER NELSON

COUTTS CONSULTING, the career adviser, has said it may be forced to turn to the City for extra cash if it loses a Fr23.5 million court battle with the former owners of GBA, its French subsidiary.

The company, which is locked in dispute over what it claims is a loophole in its contract with GBA's former owners, said it would have to "*negotiate additional funding*" if it failed to close the loophole in the handover agreement.

The dispute centres on a clause in the contract in which Coutts agreed to pay GBA's former owners a percentage of improvement in profits between 1994 and 1995. The subsidiary made a loss in 1994, but returned to profit the year after. This created a substantial improvement of which its former owners are claiming their share. Coutts is arguing that it should be compensated for the 1994 losses, which would reduce the final payment to Fr5.5 million.

Mobility in the employment market helped the company to lift pre-tax profits to £3.04 million (£2.39 milion) last year, on sales of £38.3 million (£33.7 million). Earnings were 2.76p a share (2.52p), and the dividend rises to 2.3p (2p). A final 1.55p is due on June 30.

Live TV sends right signals to Mirror

BY PAUL DURMAN

Montgomery: local progress

MIRROR GROUP said it was making good progress in attracting advertisers to its growing network of local TV stations.

Although Mirror's Live TV is best known for its national channel, with its News Bunny and topless darts, it also offers local services in Birmingham, Westminster, Liverpool and Edinburgh. David Montgomery, the media group's chief executive, said: "Local markets are much more exciting than the national brand market."

The share of advertising captured by Birmingham Live, the longest-established service, is five times better than Live TV's share of national advertising. Birmingham Live offers six hours of local news, information and sport every day, and claims a bigger audience share than channels such as Sky News, MTV and CNN. Mirror said TV advertising revenues had consistently beaten targets, and Live TV remained on track to break into profit by the end of 1998. It will soon add local channels in Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow. Yet local programming will only cost £4 million in 1997.

Mirror was reporting a 6.6 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £82.2 million. The group also made an exceptional profit of £19.4 million, mainly from property. Turnover rose 7.3 per cent to £538 million.

The company was pleased that *The Mirror* and its other newspapers had overcome sharply higher newsprint costs of £130 million through higher cover prices and a 6.7 per cent rise in advertising revenue. It said it had improved its papers through the introduction of supplements such as *The Mirror's* Football Mania.

Scottish Television, in which Mirror holds a 20 per cent stake, contributed profits of £12.2 million. However, the £5.6 million of this that came from trading was wiped out by losses, believed to be about £7 million, from *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, in which Mirror has a 46.3 per cent interest.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Disappointment as Graham takes a fall

GRAHAM GROUP, the builder's merchant, suffered a sharp fall in 1996 pre-tax profits to £10.7 million, from £19.3 million, as a result of competitive market conditions and volatile raw material prices. The company is holding the total dividend at 5.7p, with an unchanged 3.8p final, payable from earnings that fell to 5p a share, from 10.2p previously.

Sales increased 9.3 per cent to £533.9 million but operating profits fell 32.4 per cent to £15.9 million. The company said that although the results were disappointing, the performance had improved in the second half and at the year-end there were strong indications of increased activity related to the upturn in the housing market. The shares rose 5p to 143½p against last year's high of 209p.

EasyJet's 200 new jobs

EASYJET, the low cost airline, is to create 200 jobs at its headquarters at Luton airport over the next year, nearly doubling its workforce. Most of the vacancies will be in the company's cabin crew and telesales departments, but there will also be 30 new jobs for pilots. The telesales and cabin staff will be recruited locally as far as possible, maintaining EasyJet's record of taking 90 per cent of staff from the local area. The company currently has five aircraft, with two more due to come into service by the end of the year.

Sirdar profits drop

SIRDAR, the wool company, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £2.586 million in the six months to December 31 from £3.299 million last time. Earnings fell from 3.46p a share to 3.16p a share although the interim dividend is held at 1.79p a share. Gerry Lumb, the chairman, said Sirdar's handknitting and machine yarns divisions are currently accepting business at improved margins, and forward bookings are at a higher level than last year. The company expects this division to be back into profit in the near future.

Quintain offer agreed

QUINTAIN ESTATES has made a £60 million agreed offer for Fiscal Properties and is buying the interests in Croydon Land & Estates (CLE) not owned by Fiscal, taking the total paid to £77 million. The value of Fiscal's existing portfolio is £81.6 million and CLE's is worth £55.6 million. Quintain plans to sell certain Fiscal and CLE properties deemed to be unsuitable for its enlarged portfolio. Quintain's offer values each Fiscal share at 72.7p, a premium of 12 per cent to Wednesday's closing price of 65p.

Carlton deal referred

THE Government yesterday referred the Carlton acquisition of Time Warner's Metrocolour London Ltd to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. John Taylor, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, said the decision had been made on the advice of the Director-General of Fair Trading. The MMC is required to make its report by June 25. Meanwhile, Time Warner said that it has abandoned plans to list on the London Stock Exchange. The decision follows its acquisition last October of Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

Cape looks at demerger

CAPE, the building materials group, is considering demerging its two remaining businesses as the final piece of its £6 million restructuring programme. The company is likely to jettison its industrial services arm and focus on producing fireproof building boards. The costs of shedding nine businesses left the company with a pre-tax loss of £13.2 million last year, against a £11.5 million profit last time. This brought losses to 24.7p per share (14p profit). The final dividend falls to 6p (11p), with a final 3p.

Passenger increase

THE number of passengers passing through Britain's big airports rose by 4.5 per cent last month, thanks to a huge increase in Irish traffic. BAA's seven British airports handled 6.5 million people in February 1997. The number of people travelling to and from Ireland increased by 17 per cent compared with February 1996, while numbers on other long haul routes rose 9.1 per cent. North Atlantic traffic was up 8.3 per cent. The number of passengers taking European scheduled flights rose 4.2 per cent, but European charter traffic fell 3.9 per cent.

Delphi buys stake

DELPHI GROUP, the computer software and services company, has acquired a strategic stake in Groupe Decan Europe, the French IT systems and services company, for £3.4 million. The deal was effected by the purchase of 25.01 per cent of GD, the holding company that owns a 55 per cent stake in Groupe Decan. In addition, GD owns two properties with a book value of £1 million, which are solely used by Decan for its operations. In the year to June, Decan revenues amounted to £15.5 million while pre-tax profit was £1.7 million.

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Enterprise Oil shares jump after 40% advance

By Carl Mortished

SHARES of Enterprise Oil rose 18½p to 652p after the exploration company announced a 40 per cent rise in net profits for 1996 and 1p uplift in the dividend, the first increase for four years.

Increased production, up 3 per cent on 1995, and higher oil prices helped Enterprise to raise profit after tax from £101 million to £142 million.

The company also benefited from a high success rate in finding new oil reserves. Enterprise booked 160 million new barrels to its balance sheet, almost twice as much oil as it pumped out of the ground during 1996. Pierre Jungels, the new chief executive of Enterprise, said that after five months with the group he was highly impressed with the quality of the assets.

He quashed recent rumours that Enterprise was planning a takeover bid and pointed out that the group's core areas of operation, the UK, Norway, Italy and the US, were politically stable, compared with other oil rich countries, such as Algeria, Colombia and Indonesia.

He added: "If we find opportunities in areas which are politically risky, it will go into the equation and it is probable that we will reject projects on that basis."

Enterprise is paying a dividend of 17p for the year. Operating cashflow after tax and interest rose 25 per cent to £560 million thanks to a rise in average realised oil prices from £10.72 in 1995 to £13.17.

Enterprise continues to squeeze its overheads, bringing unit operating costs down from £2.35 per barrel to £2.28 per barrel.

Mr Jungels predicted that overall costs could be squeezed further and pointed to oil industry targets of $1 per barrel finding costs, $3 development cost and $3 operating cost.

"If we can improve our costs, we are less influenced by the oil price," he said.

Enterprise's average finding cost was 99p per barrel in 1996. The company drilled 36 wells, of which seven were successful appraisals. Of 29 exploration wells drilled, Enterprise made 11 discoveries.

The exploration and development budget in the current year totals £500 million, which will be spent in the core areas of UK/Norway, Italy and the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition wells will be drilled in the Atlantic Margin, the Black Sea, South-East Asia and Peru.

Tempus, page 28

Japanese growth picks up

From A Correspondent in Tokyo

ECONOMIC growth in Japan is likely to outpace the Government's own forecast of 2.5 per cent in the current fiscal year after a stronger than expected performance in the three months to December 31.

Japan's Economic Planning Agency said gross domestic product rose 1 per cent in the last quarter, or 3.9 per cent on a yearly basis. As a result the Government's target can be achieved even if the economy shrinks by 0.63 per cent in the three months to March 31, the final quarter of Japan's fiscal year. Economists believe growth, which is being led by private demand, of 2.7 per cent is within reach.

Kenneth Courtis, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Group, said: "These numbers show that the economy probably has a little more momentum than most people thought up until now."

Others were more pessimistic, saying it would be difficult to achieve the target GDP growth of 1.9 per cent in 1997-98. Tomoko Fujii, of Salomon Brothers Asia, said: "There are already uncertainties looming on the horizon. Public sector demand has already fallen and we are expecting fiscal tightening in the coming months."

On the increase: Perry Group, the automotive company, plans to increase the number of outlets in its Nationwide Crash Repair Centres chain to 50, from 35.

The chain, which exceeded targeted sales of £40 million by £2 million last year, contributed £2 million to group profits in 1996, helping the group to achieve a 26 per cent advance in pre-tax earnings to £8.3 million, from £6.5 million.

The company, where Richard Allan, pictured above, is chairman and chief executive, is increasing the dividend to 9p a share from 8p, with a 5.75p final. Earnings rose to 21.1p a share, from 16.8p. Although turnover rose just 10 per cent to £456 million, the operating profit rose 27 per cent to £10.3 million.

Nestlé losing 135 jobs in overhaul

By Our Industrial Staff

MORE THAN 100 jobs are to go in a restructuring of Nestlé UK's ice cream and culinary businesses. The group is axing 225 jobs but creating 90 new positions at one of its plants near Manchester, leaving a net loss of 135 jobs.

Most of the jobs — 170 — are to be lost from the company's factory at Peterhead, north of Aberdeen, where it makes Branston pickle and Waistline low-calorie dressing.

That factory is to close towards the end of next year and production will be transferred to Nestlé's factory at Hadfield, near Manchester, which will involve the creation of 90 jobs.

Production of Lyons Maid ice cream at its factory in Stourbridge, West Midlands, is to be transferred, with the loss of 65 jobs from that plant towards the end of this year, to another factory at Telford in Shropshire.

Nestlé said that ten of the jobs from Stourbridge would be transferred to its plant at Telford.

Graham Millar, managing director of Nestlé Food Division, commented: "This has been a very difficult decision and one we would not have taken if there had been any viable alternative option."

He went on: "We are faced with an increasingly competitive marketplace, which forces us to look for ways to increase efficiency and cut costs.

"We are committed to assisting our employees at Peterhead and Stourbridge to find alternative, long-term employment by establishing a job shop and task force, and by providing a comprehensive programme of assistance and advice."

Severn to restructure capital

By Our City Staff

SEVERN TRENT, the water company, plans a capital restructuring that will involve a cash sum for shareholders. The move completes plans, announced in November, to return 10 per cent of share capital to shareholders.

The company said: "The proposals will comprise a capital reorganisation which will allow all shareholders to participate and, if they choose, to receive a cash sum."

Approval will be sought from shareholders at the annual meeting on July 30.

Richard Ireland, chairman, said: "having considered a number of different options, the board of Severn Trent believes that a capital restructuring, to be implemented at the time of the agm, represents the most efficient mechanism for completing the company's return of value programme."

Shares fall after Molins warning

By Our City Staff

SHARES of Molins, the engineering group, fell 70p to 830p after Michael Orr, chairman, warned the stock market about prospects.

He said it would be unrealistic "to anticipate growth in earnings on a significant scale until a more balanced and somewhat stronger order flow is established across the group.

"The pattern of order intake is such that no significant increase in sales is planned this year in the group's traditional activities. Unless market conditions improve in the near future, sales of corrugated board machinery are unlikely to be maintained at last year's levels."

Mr Orr said that the international specialist engineering company continued to face weaker demand from the American corrugated board industry. He added: "General conditions in the corrugated board industry are weak and customers remain reluctant to commit themselves to orders for machinery."

He said the order backlog for tobacco machinery was good, but lower than a year ago, while Molins' packaging machinery division has a steady order flow.

The Hunt Valley plant had been closed, a more suitable facility at Bristol found, and a small facility was being closed at Orpington.

Molins raised pre-tax profits from £29.8 million to £33.4 million during 1996 on sales up from £285.5 millon to £303.2 million. Earnings per share rose to 72.8p from 65.4p, out of which the total dividend rises from 20p to 22p. The final dividend goes up from 14.1p to 15.5p.

LBSH to be valued at £47m

London Bridge Software Holdings, which provides software, consultancy and services for credit risk, is expected to be valued at £47 million when it seeks a stock market listing later this month at 200p a share.

It aims to raise £6.4 million, of which up to £5 million will be used to buy back 2.5 million ordinary shares from Gordon Crawford, chairman and managing director.

Jeyes higher

Jeyes, the household requisites group, raised pre-tax profits from £1.29 million to £2.93 million in the year to December on sales down from £116 million to £113 million. There is a 1p dividend against none in the previous year.

Mohair down

British Mohair, the wool group, saw a fall in pre-tax profits to £869,000 during 1996 from £2.3 million in 1995. The final dividend has been cut from 7.6p to 4.1p, leaving the year's total down from 9p to 5.5p.

Tullow deal

Tullow Oil is to merge its Czech oil and gas operations with those of MOH investments, the private oil and gas company, through Medusa Petroleum, a new holding company. It plans to raise up to £8 million and to be listed on AIM.

Offer firmed

Navia, Endress & Hauser has declared its offer for Whessoe, the North East engineering group, wholly unconditional and now accounts for 51.4 per cent of Whessoe shares.

Premier signs

Premier, the oil group, has signed a sales agreement with Burma and Thailand to supply gas from the Yetagun Field in Burma to Thailand.

Inchcape job

Inchcape, the international vehicle distribution group, has appointed Les Cullen, from Goodman Fielder, the Australian food company, as group finance director.

Cortworth engineers 14% rise

CORTWORTH, the specialist engineering group formed via a management buyout from Williams Holdings in 1993, has reported a 14 per cent rise in operating profits for 1996, its first full year as a quoted company (Martin Barrow writes).

Operating profits rose to £9.8 million, from £8.6 million, in spite of a fall in turnover to £67.2 million, from £70.5 million, largely because of a withdrawal from low-margin subcontract commitments.

Pre-tax profits rose to £10.1 million, from £4.9 million, with some of the rise attributable to financial restructuring at the time of flotation removing the cost of high-interest loans. Cortworth ended the year without borrowings and paid no interest charge, after interest costs of £4 million in the previous year. Capital spending doubled to £3.2 million.

A 4.4p final dividend makes a total 6.5p. The shares, floated at 150p, rose 2p to 175½p.

TOP OF THE TABLES

In The Times Educational Supplement today we publish the most comprehensive set of primary school performance tables for England. Fifty-five pages of results and data on teacher assessment, special needs and absence plus unrivalled analysis and comment.

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France	(FFr)	1985	55%	1091	571	331	502
Luxembourg	(LFr)	9164	51%	5040	2635	1527	2611
Netherlands	(DFl)	778	45%	428	224	130	188
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	35%	445	232	135	177
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	n/a	237	118.5	79.04	130

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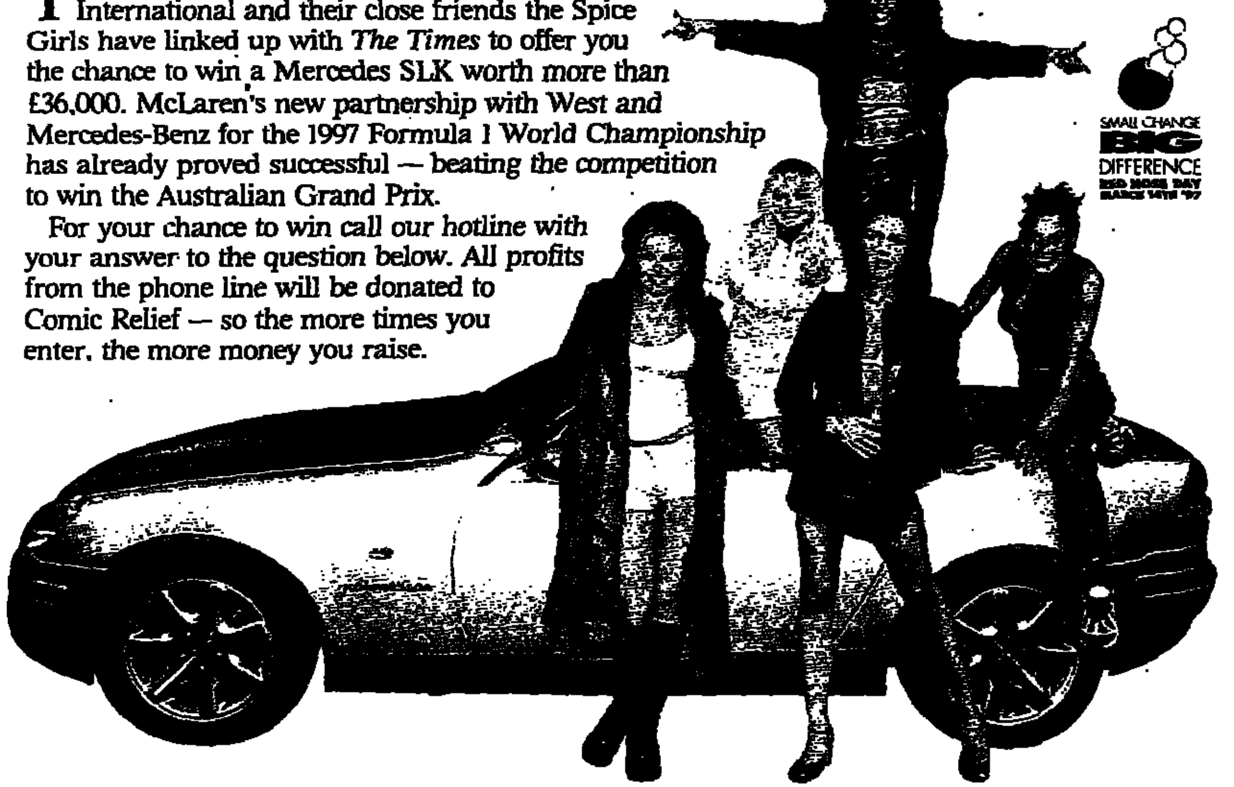
CHANGING TIMES

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a £36,000 Mercedes SLK
and help to raise money for Comic Relief

To support the Red Nose Day campaign McLaren International and their close friends the Spice Girls have linked up with *The Times* to offer you the chance to win a Mercedes SLK worth more than £36,000. McLaren's new partnership with West and Mercedes-Benz for the 1997 Formula 1 World Championship has already proved successful — beating the competition to win the Australian Grand Prix.

For your chance to win call our hotline with your answer to the question below. All profits from the phone line will be donated to Comic Relief — so the more times you enter, the more money you raise.



CALL OUR COMPETITION HOTLINE ON 0891 335 599
0891 calls cost 50p per minute

The second prize is a two-day trip for two on board Virgin's Red Nose CrossCountry train to Edinburgh, staying in a top hotel. Third prize is a pair of tickets to Paris with Air France. The lucky winner of the Mercedes will be McLaren's guest at the British Grand Prix in July, where he or she will be entertained at the McLaren Hospitality Club, meet David Coulthard and Mika Hakinnen before the race, tour the pit garage, and enjoy the Grand Prix from the VIP Grandstand. The Spice Girls, who are donating the proceeds of their No 1 hit *Who Do You Think You Are?* to Comic Relief, hope to be at the Grand Prix.

McLaren

HOW TO ENTER

Call our hotline, above, before midnight on Saturday March 22 with the answer to this question:

How much money has Comic Relief raised in its five previous Red Nose Days?

a) £100 million b) £112 million
c) £150 million

All proceeds from the line will go to Comic Relief. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

COMIC RELIEF — THE FACTS
Over five Red Nose Days, Comic Relief has raised just over £112 million. Two-thirds of the money goes to self-sufficiency projects in Africa, and one-third to projects in the UK.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Buy a red nose for your car at any Texaco garage, or one for your face or to wear as a badge. Do something and get sponsored. Donate money by calling: 0345 460 460.
● For information about Comic Relief, call 0891 55 77 88.
Reg Charity No. 326568

CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	737.40	784.50	-4.60	2.29
General Inc	611.00	650.00	-3.80	2.29
UK Growth Acc	517.00	544.70	-2.50	2.39
UK Growth Inc	331.30	352.50	-1.70	2.39
Higher Inc Acc	914.80	973.20	-3.30	3.82
Higher Inc Inc	487.30	518.50	-1.70	3.82
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	217.30	229.40	-0.30	5.44
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.85	98.07	-0.15	5.44
Nth America	374.80	398.60	-6.90	
Europe	404.30	430.80	-3.60	0.19
Brit Excell	100.90	107.40	-0.50	2.51
Brit Fndmtls Acc	128.50	136.80	-0.40	4.51
Brit Fndmtls Inc	84.76	90.18	-0.31	4.51
Global Opps	106.90	113.30	-1.70	
Balanced Acc	67.64	71.96	-0.44	2.39
Balanced Inc	63.15	67.19	-0.41	2.39
Japan Acc	37.24	39.62	-0.68	
Pac Basin Acc	403.30	429.10	-7.50	0.92
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	133.40	141.50†	-0.50	6.72
High Inc Equity	201.00	215.00	-1.40	4.42
Worldwide Bond	270.70	287.10†	-0.90	4.18
American Growth	439.20	469.40	-5.60	0.36
Asian Pacific	338.00	361.50	-4.70	0.38
Assets & Earnings	332.30	355.40	-0.90	2.66
Euro Capital Acc	207.90	222.40	-3.40	0.71
Extra Inc	*43.20*	*45.96†*	*-0.10*	7.96
General	296.90	315.90†	-2.00	2.86
Global Opps	75.69	80.52	-1.09	0.50
Japan	87.88	93.78	-1.12	
Managed Inc	50.11	53.31†	-0.28	4.22
Mastertrust	178.80	191.20	-1.80	1.26
US Emerging Cos	189.60	201.70	-2.80	
Ethical	90.79	98.58	+0.26	1.63
International	142.00	151.10	-1.70	0.58
Dividend & Growth	74.10	78.83	-0.53	4.26
Global Gwth & Sec	75.06	80.38		2.52
Latin America	83.25	88.56	-0.62	0.44
Capital Reserve	148.00	148.10	.	4.60
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	99.37	105.70	-0.34	2.28
Equity Income	140.00	148.90	-0.20	4.06
Extra Income	269.60	286.80	-0.60	6.36
Smaller Cos	116.60	124.00†	-0.80	1.44
International	119.70	127.30	-1.40	1.34
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2612.00	2713.00	+12.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	65.99	68.50	-1.15	
Emerging Mkts	81.10	84.46	-0.56	0.04
European	166.70	173.30†	-1.50	
Extra Income #	52.91	55.69†	-0.20	5.84
Far East Emg Eco	133.00	139.60	-1.00	0.45
Fixed Interest #	26.83	27.91†	-0.02	8.71
Fund Inv Tst #	173.60	182.30	+0.20	0.12
Japan	152.00	158.00	-3.00	
Latin American	71.26	74.15	-0.52	0.86
Pacific	82.27	86.37	-1.05	0.30
Property Share	82.98	87.12	+0.01	2.02
UK Emerging Cos	74.39	80.40	-0.01	1.20
UK Growth	61.06	63.59	-0.28	1.84
Aber World Port #	88.15	90.07	-0.42	2.76
Ethical	83.58	86.92	-0.29	2.03
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.36	50.40†	-0.06	7.35
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	167.18	179.77	-2.09	0.73
UK Equity	106.85	114.07	-0.32	3.11
UK Equity & Bd	62.21	66.92	-0.20	6.09
UK Smlr Cos	58.41	60.94†	+0.06	1.56
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	838.86	851.54	+22.08	4.04
Fxd In Sec	158.40	159.04	+0.26	8.99
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	832.43	845.01	+12.36	4.07
Investment Acc	£38.86	£39.45	+57.91	
Fixed Int Inc	130.70	131.22	+0.38	8.84
Fixed Int Acc	243.43	244.41	+0.71	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.24	94.06	..	5.33
Beck Bio-Tech	45.36	49.29	-1.34	
Acorn Ethical Tst	194.17	203.90		0.42
City Fin Assets	85.19	89.46	.	1.72
City Fin Intl	92.80	97.45	...	0.13
Friars Hse Cap	331.02	352.15		2.29
Buckley Wrld Gth	145.00	153.70†		
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	61.67	64.76	+0.46	3.21
Stow Utilities	66.78	68.34	-0.08	6.48
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60.97	64.69†	-0.40	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0345 772 233				
American Gwth	84.87	90.29	-1.84	
Dragon Growth	73.77	78.89	-1.60	0.34
Equity High Inc	100.16	107.31†	-0.39	3.56
-do- Accum	146.83	157.32	-0.57	3.56
Extra Income Inc	27.40	28.85	-0.07	6.90
Extra Income Acc	30.58	32.20	-0.08	6.90
European Gwth	69.74	73.99	-1.08	0.39
Evergreen	32.60	34.86	-0.23	
General Equity	116.79	123.92	-0.41	2.53
Japan Growth	36.99	39.35	-0.77	
Pedigree Gwth	70.12	75.08	-0.03	2.03
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.62	44.75	+0.13	1.00
-do- Accum	44.36	47.70	+0.13	1.00
Retirement Inc #	30.50	32.48	-0.10	5.51
Special Sits	51.23	55.09	-0.16	2.49
UK & Overseas	64.28	68.20	-0.81	0.57
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD 01634 898 000				
Balanced	75.51	78.65†	-0.10	3.84
Capital	91.16	94.96†	-0.22	2.41
High Income	53.54	55.77†	-0.18	6.47
Top 50	62.46	65.06†	-0.39	2.35
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	213.56	222.48	-0.71	4.13
Long Gilt	45.06	46.92	-0.20	5.98
Monthly Inc Plus	52.58	54.78	-0.21	8.18
Preference Share	50.31	52.41	-0.22	7.44
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	155.17	161.65	-0.58	5.28
Managed Fund	81.24	84.63	-0.68	2.62
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	58.10	60.53	+0.01	1.57
-do- Accum	68.67	71.54	+0.01	1.57
UK & General	108.93	113.48	-0.55	2.66
-do- Accum	143.33	149.32	-0.73	2.66
UK Growth	219.82	229.00	-0.95	1.23
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	234.18	243.96	-3.52	0.59
Far Eastern Grth	129.73	135.15	-2.48	0.02

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	281.90	301.20	-5.20	...
Income & Growth	248.10	263.90	-0.80	3.95
-do- Accum	400.80	426.40	-1.30	3.95
Intl Growth	435.60	464.70	-6.00	..
-do- Accum	483.60	516.00	-6.50	...
Japan & Gen	132.70	141.00†	-2.80	
-do- Accum	134.00	142.40†	-2.90	
Monthly Inc #	213.00	226.60†		4.38
-do- Accum #	217.00	230.80†	+0.10	4.38
Managed Port Inc	128.60	135.40	+1.10	1.32
-do- Accum	139.70	147.10	+1.20	1.32
Quarterly Income #	60.46	64.79†	-0.13	5.28
-do- Accum #	70.68	75.74†	-0.16	5.28
Recovery	344.70	368.70†	-4.60	
-do- Accum	406.90	435.20†	-5.40	
UK Growth	73.31	77.99	-0.35	[illegible]
-do- Accum	79.49	84.56	-0.39	[illegible]
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01722 716835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	69.44	73.88	-1.08	0.04
FP Am Smllr Cos	207.80	221.60	-3.30	...
FP Asian Growth	292.60	312.10	-4.00	
FP Australian	453.40	483.60	-3.70	.
FP Equity Dist	503.30	536.80	-2.70	2.23
-do- Accum	£11.24	£11.98	-6.00	2.23
FP Euro Gth	328.10	349.90	-5.90	.
-do- Accum	358.80	382.70	-6.50	
FP Intl Bond	56.53	59.82†	-0.09	4.43
FP Intl Gth Dist	39.89	42.54	-0.59	
-do- Accum	58.59	62.49	-0.87	
FP Pac Basin Acc	214.00	228.20	-3.10	
FP Income #	64.22	68.50	-0.26	4.73
-do- Accum #	228.30	243.50	-0.90	4.73
FP Jap Smllr Cos	219.10	233.70	-2.90	. .
FP Monthly Dist #	80.32	85.67†	-0.31	5.26
FP Stlg Deposit	100.80	100.80		5.03
FP Tokyo	63.86	68.11	-0.91	.
FP UK Focus	46.53	49.63	-0.34	1.51
FP UK Growth	218.70	233.20	-1.50	2.05
-do- Accum	444.80	474.40	-3.10	2.05
Stewardship Dist	482.00	514.10	+0.40	1.16
-do- Accum	609.10	649.70	+0.50	1.16
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	84.50	90.13†	+0.06	4.61
-do- Accum #	118.30	126.10	+0.10	4.61
N Am Stshp Dist	138.00	147.20	-1.30	0.23
-do- Accum	148.50	158.40	-1.40	0.23
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	116.50	117.00	-0.10	3.20
Inst Ethical Ac #	116.50	117.00	-0.10	3.20
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	136.40	145.10	-0.40	1.09
Open Cap Gth Acc	141.00	150.00	+0.10	
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	124.90	132.80†	-0.20	3.00
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	133.70	142.20	-0.20	3.00
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	129.90	138.10†		3.75
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	140.70	149.60		3.75
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	327.30	347.30	-1.60	1.72
Cash	49.48	50.23†	+0.01	4.47
Growth Portfolio	96.07	102.20	-1.30	
Income Portfolio	79.14	83.97†	-0.70	2.72
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD 0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	265.10	283.50	+0.50	0.31
Dividend	107.20	114.70†	-0.80	3.60
Int Gth & Inc	271.00	289.80	-3.90	2.21
UK & Gen	55.99	59.88†	-0.56	1.39
Fund of Funds	80.70	86.31		
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	221.00	236.40	-4.30	0.14
European Gth	817.30	870.70	-13.30	0.55
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	57.48	60.68	-0.43	4.96
-do- Accum	65.23	69.12	-0.48	4.96
Far East & Gen	273.80	292.90	-5.00	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Smlr Cos	159.83	169.29	-1.75	
Pacific Smlr Cos	238.75	254.35	-1.84	. .
North American	354.26	375.49	-6.70	
American Smaller	183.15	195.55	-3.57	..
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	171.90	181.00†	-0.80	5.03
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0181 686 4355				
British	136.62	143.05	-0.48	1.73
Capital	219.65	230.00†	-1.66	1.30
Dollar	572.61	599.60	-9.15	
Enterprise Gth	467.67	489.71†	+0.31	0.78
European	311.98	326.68	-4.60	0.08
Far East	320.29	335.39	-5.11	0.26
Financial	£12.32	£12.91	-10.06	1.45
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.91	27.99	-0.08	6.50
High Yield #	121.98	127.72	-0.37	4.68
Income & Growth #	180.67	189.19	-0.53	3.46
International	306.49	320.94	-4.52	0.36
Japanese General	158.09	165.54	-2.28	
Japan Tech	71.50	74.87	-1.21	0.50
Nat Resources	84.59	88.57	-1.07	0.36
Portfolio	91.11	95.40	-0.44	1.25
Special Sits	246.42	258.03†	+1.73	0.03
UK Emerging Cos	143.45	150.21	-0.03	0.77
US Smaller Cos	162.57	170.23	-3.44	.
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	703.80	751.20†	-3.40	4.29
UK Growth	778.10	830.40	-5.40	1.36
High Income #	126.60	135.10†	-0.40	5.53
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	686.10	736.80	-12.50	0.24
European Gwth	164.90	175.20	-2.20	0.13
Japan Gwth	216.00	229.70	-3.40	.
Japan Smllr Cos	24.16	25.78†	-0.34	.
Asian	65.29	69.88	-1.12	
Sing & Malay Gwth	97.35	103.90	-1.28	
Hong Kong Gwth	181.70	193.70†	-4.90	0.90
Global Bond	21.34	22.48	-0.14	4.72
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	186.50	187.40	-0.80	2.87
Tride Index	139.70	143.30†	-0.70	2.07
THE FOOTSIE FUND	73.06	73.43	-0.41	2.25
Index Funds-International				
American Index	327.80	329.40†	-5.20	0.91
Eurotrack 100	217.40	218.50†	-2.90	1.36
Japan Index	58.46	58.75†	-1.28	0.11
Tiger Index	191.70	198.40	-3.60	0.14
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	57.01	59.54†	-0.01	1.14
General Funds				
Managed Dist	98.42	100.70	-0.90	1.08
Managed	99.48	103.90	-0.90	1.08
Rupert Child Fnd	115.50	120.50	-0.70	1.76
UK Growth	79.65	83.19	-0.25	1.47
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	96.38	100.70†	-0.10	5.28
Gilt & Fixed Int #	27.70	28.58	-0.06	7.46
UK Inc & Gwth	54.08	56.48	-0.21	2.68
UK Income #	420.70	439.40	-0.90	4.10
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	69.28	71.94†	-1.09	
Amer Smllr Cos	160.80	167.98	-3.00	
-do- Accum	162.50	169.70	-3.00	
Europe Gth	275.60	288.80	-4.40	
-do- Accum	285.50	296.90	-4.50	.
Euro Smaller Cos	51.45	53.54	-0.58	.
French Growth	108.10	112.30†	-1.90	0.17
-do- Accum	117.00	121.50†	-1.90	0.17

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Slater Gwth	208.60	222.50	-2.00	0.90
New Japan	78.30	82.63	-0.94	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	221.00	235.10	-0.90	
Income #	248.01	263.84	-0.39	3.93
UK Growth	96.49	102.64	-0.31	1.80
Intl Growth	92.16	98.04†	-0.31	0.57
Ecology	113.48	120.72	-0.67	0.86
European	234.897	249.89	-1.50	0.30
Far Eastern	315.20	335.30	-6.40	.
UK Special Sits	61.45	65.54	+0.07	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.50	61.33	-0.20	
High Income #	56.12	59.86	+0.05	4.68

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	81.64	86.86	-0.67	
Master Trust	72.68	77.32	-0.43	1.16
-do- Accum	83.92	89.28	-0.50	1.16
Millennium Acc	103.30	109.90	.	2.15
N American Gen	277.90	295.70	-3.70	
-do- Accum	321.60	342.20	-4.30	
NAm Sm Co Rec	194.30	206.80	-1.00	..
-do- Accum	198.30	211.00	-1.10	.
Pacific Basin	262.60	279.40†	-4.40	0.26
-do- Accum	279.90	297.80	-4.70	0.26
Safety First Acc	99.37	104.60	-0.70	2.02
Do until 12/1/98 ‡	98.25	...		
Small Cos Rec	572.30	602.60	-0.20	1.58
-do- Accum	790.90	832.20	-0.30	1.58
UK Eq Gth	182.10	193.80†	-1.10	2.19
UK Eq Inc #	143.60	152.80	-0.80	3.94
UK Growth	117.20	124.70	+0.50	1.66
-do- Accum	148.30	157.80	+0.70	1.66
Worldwide Gth	370.60	394.30	-4.80	0.29
-do- Accum	548.20	583.20	-7.20	0.29
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT 01392 282 873				
American	98.84	105.77	-1.46	0.60
General	118.70	127.36	-0.72	2.70
Income	80.44	86.30†	-0.42	5.40
International	77.12	82.74	-0.99	0.50
Japan	44.70	47.96	-0.61	
Tst of Inv Trusts	82.75	88.78	-0.17	0.90
M & G SECURITIES Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	584.90	617.80†	-8.00	0.29
-do- Accum	733.00	774.10†	-11.40	0.29
Amer Recovery	679.70	718.80	-8.40	
-do- Accum	786.00	831.30	-9.70	
Amer Smllr Cos	162.20	171.50	-2.90	.
-do- Accum	165.70	175.30	-2.50	.
Australasian	235.00	248.50†	-3.00	1.79
-do- Accum	298.00	315.10†	-3.80	1.79
Capital	1047.10	1107.30†	-4.50	2.84
-do- Accum	1263.30	1335.90†	-5.40	2.84
Charifund	853.90	862.90	+1.90	5.46
-do- Accum	4496.80	4541.80	+9.70	5.48
Commodity	541.80	573.00†	-5.90	0.29
-do- Accum	801.20	847.40†	-8.60	0.29
Compound Gth	1208.90	1278.00	-1.20	2.70
-do- Accum	1335.00	1411.80	-1.40	2.70
Corporate Bond	26.82	26.92	-0.09	7.00
Dividend	47.90	50.70	-0.10	4.56
-do- Accum	217.40	230.00	-0.60	4.56
Equity Income	353.80	374.10†	+0.60	5.35
-do- Accum	501.30	530.10†	+0.90	5.35
Euro & General	706.90	747.50	-6.80	0.54
-do- Accum	907.90	960.00	-8.80	0.54
Euro Dividend	90.00	95.20	-0.60	3.47
-do- Accum	115.50	122.20	-0.70	3.47
Euro Smlr Cos	58.60	62.00	-0.40	0.50
-do- Accum	58.60	62.00	-0.40	0.50
Extra Yield	507.00	536.30†	+0.80	4.90
-do- Accum	1740.50	1840.80†	+2.80	4.90
Fund of Inv Tsts	781.60	826.50	-1.90	1.70
-do- Accum	1509.90	1596.70	-3.50	1.70
General	75.40	79.70	-0.40	3.66
-do- Accum	226.30	239.30	-1.10	3.66
Gilt Income	63.54	63.63†	-0.22	6.60
-do- Accum	198.09	198.39†	-0.68	6.60
Gold	78.00	82.50	-1.30	0.42
-do- Accum	93.60	99.00	-1.60	0.42
High Income	36.30	38.40	-0.10	4.40
-do- Accum	158.00	167.40	-0.30	4.40
Intl Growth	95.70	101.20†	-0.90	0.67
-do- Accum	169.60	179.20†	-1.80	0.67
International Inc	120.90	127.80	-0.90	4.14
-do- Accum	194.00	205.20	-1.30	4.14
Japan & Gen	30.50	32.30	-0.50	
-do- Accum	32.70	34.50	-0.60	
Japan Smlr Cos	108.50	114.70	-1.20	
-do- Accum	109.30	115.50	-1.30	
Managed Gwth	28.80	30.40	-0.20	1.51

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	112.06	119.21	-1.40	0.39
Intl Bond	63.82	67.04	-0.18	4.70
Intl Equity Growth	89.39	94.96	-1.28	0.56
N Amer Growth	154.52	164.11†	-2.67	0.75
Special Sits Growth	31.10	33.08†	-0.17	1.99
UK Growth	510.85	543.45	-3.18	2.41
-do- Accum	705.42	750.44	-4.39	2.41
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1516.70	1538.10	.	3.20
Income #	1082.10	1098.40		4.50

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	102.80	106.20†	-0.30	6.77
Euro Prfr Inc	113.70	121.00	-1.40	2.75
-do- Accum	113.70	121.00	-1.40	2.75
Gilt Yield	120.60	127.20†	-0.20	6.36
Global Income	248.30	264.10†	-1.90	3.02
High Yield	174.80	186.00	-1.10	5.01
-do- Accum	583.80	621.10	-3.80	5.01
Money Market	99.08	99.08†	+0.02	5.39
Smlr Cos Div	67.75	72.07†	+0.08	3.59
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.480	10.630	-0.04	
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	165.00	175.50†	-1.60	
Asian Growth	332.40	353.60	-5.30	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	182.00	185.80		3.33
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 0800 363432				
M & S Inv Ptflo	191.10	197.10	-1.30	2.31
-do- Accum	229.10	236.20	-1.50	2.31
UK Sel Ptflio	172.60	177.90	-1.00	2.31
-do- Accum	210.10	216.60	-1.30	2.31
UK 100 Cos	*129.50*	*129.50†*	*-1.00*	2.43
-do- Accum	132.70	132.70†	-1.10	2.43
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	74.30	79.04	+0.78	3.40

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Monthly Income	102.10	106.90†	-0.40	4.26
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	148.50	158.00	-0.90	1.24
European Growth	151.70	160.80	-0.30	0.01
Gilt & Fixed	104.40	110.70	-0.10	5.01
Income	115.80	123.20	-0.60	2.07
Japan Growth	37.92	40.20	-0.24	
Managed	89.28	94.98	-1.22	1.85
Money Market	97.92	103.80	.	3.87
North American	123.70	131.30	-0.40	0.34
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	134.70	143.30	-0.80	1.23
European Growth	142.40	150.90	-0.20	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	98.34	104.32	-0.10	5.04
Income	113.50	120.70	-0.60	2.13
Japan Growth	37.83	40.10	-0.24	
Managed	85.85	91.33	-0.56	1.82
Money Market	90.24	95.65		3.84
North American	111.20	117.90	-0.40	0.41
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	133.30	141.90	-0.80	1.24
European Growth	139.30	147.70	-0.20	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	87.86	93.18	-0.10	5.30
Income	109.80	116.80	-0.50	2.19
Japan Growth	38.66	40.98	-0.25	
Managed	87.68	93.28	-1.20	1.86
Money Market	81.60	86.50		4.02
North American	124.80	132.20	-0.50	0.32
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	514.60	546.00	-8.90	
European Gth Inc	651.90	693.60	-2.60	..
-do- Accum	659.00	701.20	-2.60	
Intl Gwth	245.80	260.30	-3.60	
UK Equity Inc	246.10	261.90	-0.60	3.95
Do. Accum	336.00	357.50	-0.80	3.95
UK Growth Inc	140.80	150.70†	-0.30	1.67
-do- Accum	145.20	155.40†	-0.30	1.67
UK Inq Trckr Inc	213.80	229.00†	-0.90	2.85
-do- Accum	267.10	284.80†	-1.20	2.85
US Eq Ind Tdr Inc	318.50	337.10†	-5.50	0.89
Japan Tracker	55.02	58.01	-1.26	.
Asian Trader	234.20	252.80	-3.60	0.28
Mngd Ptflio Inc	203.50	216.80	-0.90	1.61
Mngd Ptflio Acc	223.30	237.90	-1.00	1.61
Deposit Inc	100.01	100.01†	+0.01	5.52
Europe	289.20	309.30†	-0.30	.
Genesis	235.10	253.10	+0.30	2.24
High Income	21.11	22.33	-0.04	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT 0345 090 933				
Acumen	117.60	120.30	-0.50	1.77
Acumen Inc	106.70	109.00	-0.50	1.77
Acumen Reserve	99.66	100.70	-0.20	6.72
-do- Inc	75.80	76.56	-0.20	6.78
Americas Growth	76.75	78.68	-1.35	
Equity Income #	114.80	117.80	-0.60	3.88
European	92.96	94.79†	-0.47	0.15
Smaller Cos	106.90	111.50†	+0.55	0.83
W'wide Eqty	82.66	84.36†	-0.66	
Global Bond	42.34	42.90	-0.04	5.23
UK Growth	127.40	131.20	+0.10	1.17
Pacific Growth	129.60	132.60	-1.90	6.78
Japan Growth	82.63	83.74	-0.73	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	168.74	174.19	-0.91	2.35
For N&P see Abbey National				
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS 0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	140.00	147.40	-2.20	0.19
European Dist	167.20	178.00	-1.90	0.31
Far East Dist	179.60	189.10†	-3.50	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	166.60	177.30		1.30
-do- Accum	185.90	197.80		1.30
Technology	698.10	742.70	-10.90	
UK Blue Chip	98.85	105.20†	-0.30	2.78
-do- Accum	116.50	123.90	-0.30	2.78
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD Dealing: 0345 835505 Client Enq: 0345 835500				
Managed Tst	49.17	49.92	-0.39	1.82
Cash Haven Inc	101.17	101.67†	+0.02	4.97
Cash Haven Acc	120.92	121.51	+0.01	4.97
Dist Trust Inc	113.11	117.21	-0.34	5.34
Dist Trust Acc	129.81	134.52	-0.39	5.34
Global Growth	113.51	120.75†	-0.57	1.09
Equity Inc	98.00	104.26†	-0.15	4.09
Equity	980.52	£10.43	-4.04	2.20
European	301.22	312.15	-4.40	0.63
High Income	99.84	106.21†	-0.26	4.78
Intl Grth	236.43	251.52	-3.05	0.90
Intl Sm Co	102.48	109.02	-0.81	0.43
Japanese	162.07	168.78†	-3.30	
Mgd Income Tst #	49.14	50.81†	-0.10	7.72
Nth Amer	278.82	288.80	-4.47	0.93
Pacific Mkts	119.83	124.18†	-2.24	0.58
Premier Inc	48.91	50.90†	-0.13	6.54
Sm Cos	118.97	126.56	+0.23	1.79
Spec Sits	140.95	149.95	-0.44	2.31
UK Growth	164.54	175.04†	-0.59	2.23
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD 0171 407 5968				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	95.59	100.52†	-0.11	3.22
Investment Trust	*129.62*	*136.30†*	-0.16	0.55
UK Smaller Cos	123.90	130.38	+0.43	1.31
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD 01892 510 033				
British Life	375.40	398.20	-2.80	2.57
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
Five Arrows Funds				
America (Inc)	748.05	793.36	-6.89	
America (Acc)	876.50	929.46	-8.08	.
Amer Smllr Cos	65.75	70.17	-0.94	
Asia	55.52	59.63	-1.08	
European	453.87	481.68	-5.26	0.08
Japan	180.26	191.72	-2.99	
Jap Smllr Cos	28.48	30.34	-0.40	
Major UK Cos	134.72	143.53	-0.98	1.40
Smllr UK Cos	459.25	499.91†	+1.51	0.78
UK Equity Inc #	204.45	218.56	-1.05	3.95
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	54.67	57.30	+0.13	
Cash	48.28	50.28		2.84
Emerging Mkts	54.56	56.98	+0.18	
Europe	70.10	73.21	-0.39	
Global Fixed Int #	50.46	52.69	+0.04	5.21
Japan	33.55	35.03	-0.16	.
North America	75.73	79.09	+0.26	
UK	73.10	76.34	-0.08	0.31
UK Equity Inc #	68.36	71.28	-0.07	3.43
UK Fixed Int #	52.35	54.67	-0.13	6.94
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	55.49	57.50	-0.05	
Pep Inc Port #	55.35	57.35	-0.08	3.41
RAM Personal Pension				
Deposit	92.05	96.09	+0.02	
Gilt	106.53	112.13	-0.41	
Managed	128.69	135.46	-0.78	
Portfolio	54.44	57.30	-0.06	.
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	141.40	150.10	+0.10	0.28
Pacific Basin	80.13	85.11	-0.26	0.30
High Inc Dist	180.40	192.40	-0.50	3.68

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	374.40	399.30	-0.70	2.19
Europe Inc	534.00	568.50	-2.30	0.25
Nth Amer Inc	365.50	390.80	-1.10	...
Global Inc	272.10	290.20	-0.80	.
Global Acc	294.40	314.00	-0.60	.
UK Spec Sits Inc	150.90	161.00	..	1.68
South East Asia	236.60	252.30	-0.80	..
Cash Trust Inc	101.20	101.20		5.45
UK Smlr Cos Inc	135.80	144.80	-0.20	1.61
-do- Accum	143.70	153.30	-0.20	1.61
Intl Bond Inc	90.76	96.35	+0.60	4.99
SHARP (ALBERT E) Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	179.10	188.58	-2.80	0.36
Nth American	156.80	165.10	-1.70	..
Intl Bond & Conv	131.30	138.20†	-0.20	6.32
Pooled Pension (C)	258.70	276.00	-1.80	1.87
Smaller Cos	132.00	138.90	+0.30	0.78
UK General #	188.10	198.00	-1.20	1.89
Far Eastern	90.25	95.00	-0.92	.
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 0171 626 6229				
Continental	100.20	105.80	-1.10	0.89
Global Gwth	84.65	88.68	-1.00	1.13
Inv Tst Port	62.34	66.31	-0.11	2.32
Managed	£14.35	£15.03		1.54
Pref Inc #	112.00	119.10		5.72
Smaller Cos	299.30	316.30	+1.10	0.85
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	111.65	..	-0.29	4.39
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.20	.	+0.01	4.98
Corporate Inc ‡	105.90	.	-0.06	5.07
Tai Pan ‡	121.59	.	-1.38	...
Aztec ‡	78.94	.	-0.87	.
Amer Gth Fund ‡	147.19	. .	-2.18	...
European ‡	170.35	. .	-1.87	..
Global Bond ‡	90.06	..	-0.26	7.65
Samurai ‡	47.79	..	-0.86	..
UK Growth ‡	116.46	..	-0.78	2.47
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	110.68	--	-0.05	2.54
Investment Trust ‡	120.50		-0.52	1.38
The Football Fd ‡	95.88	..	-0.11	..
Reserve Roll Up ‡	97.63			
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS 0171 637 5377				
American	448.90	473.00	+2.90	
Capital	159.50	168.80	-0.30	1.07
Cash	102.12	102.12	+0.02	5.50
European	182.00	192.50	-0.30	0.38
Far Eastern	161.70	171.00	+0.80	
Growth	186.70	197.50	-0.30	1.06
Income #	151.00	159.70†	-0.40	4.71
Magnum	168.10	177.80	-0.40	1.88
Smllr Secs	650.30	688.10	+3.80	0.12
Thoroughbred	196.20	207.60	-0.40	0.96
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01202 435000				
Capital Primeco	59.65	63.76†	-0.42	7.00
Ethical	89.31	95.51†	-1.12	0.84
European Growth	89.34	94.73	-1.20	
Income	68.15	72.88	-0.15	3.17
Intl Growth	115.40	122.30	-2.00	0.08
Managed	99.16	105.30	-1.30	0.25
UK Growth	84.73	90.62†	-0.31	1.30
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS 0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	50.31	50.57†	-0.10	1.03
Global Advtg Acc	55.00	55.28	-0.20	1.03
Income Advtg Inc	40.16	40.37†	-0.10	2.24
Income Advtg Acc	47.47	47.71	-0.10	2.24
UK Equity Gth Acc	116.20	123.20	-0.30	1.81

Gilts and equities lose ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	407½	Allied Domecq	443½	-1½	6.6	13.4
626	477	Burmer (HP)	626	...	2.7	18.6
131	63½	Burn Stewart	70½		6.0	74.8
1025	615	Glenmorangie A	1015	+10	1.5	27.6
496	411	Grand Met	482	-4½	4.1	15.6
493	424	Guinness	473½	-3	4.0	14.7
380	315	Highland Dist	371		2.8	17.9
803	255½	Matthew Clark	322	+1	9.3	15.4
141	91½	Merrydown W	100½	-4	5.7	13.6
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1943¾	-6¼	1.8	

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706¼	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	4400	-93¾	2.7	17.8
811	528	Abbey Natl	779	-2½	4.2	13.8
455½	315	Allied Irish	436½	-5	4.2	
409½	285	Aus New Z	395½	-1½	4.9	
7678¾	3843¾	Bank America	7418¾	-116¼		
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	351	-1	2.6	12.9
1236	683	Barclays	1119½	+2½	3.5	11.3
635	413	Bk of Ireland	629½	-5½	3.3	14.3
7890¾	4031¼	Citicorp	7678¼	-162¾		
1700	1268¾	Commerzbk	1700	+3¾	2.6	
1350	609¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	690¾	-16¾	0.6	
3490¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3384¾	-87½	2.0	
909¾	583½	Espirito Santo	906½	-3½	3.8	12.6
1507	600½	Fuji Bank Y	710	-26	0.6	
1622	931	HSBC	1577	-20	3.3	13.4
1563½	930	HSBC HK	1520	-21	3.4	12.9
600	385	Irish Perm†	600		2.7	
534	294½	Lloyds TSB†	518½	-1	3.2	16.7
819½	566	Nat Aust Bk	790½	+5½	5.4	10.4
844½	605¼	Nat West†	739	-5	4.9	11.1
632½	464	Ryl Bk Scot	565½	-10½	4.1	12.5
900½	547	Stand Chart†	850	-8	2.1	15.2
£174¾	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		2.0	
374¾	264	Westpac	354¾	-3	3.9	11.1

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	702	Bass	843½	-10	3.7	16.6
70	40	Brit for the Bdr	64		3.4	17.5
205	161	Burtonwd Brw	188½		3.7	17.0
155½	92	City Centre Rest	154½	+½	1.8	23.1
744½	463	Compass Gp†	715½	-4	1.5	28.3
290½	190	Eldridge P 'A'	288½		2.3	17.7
540	413	Fullr Sm 'A'	482½		2.4	16.1
638	545½	Greenalls Grp	553½	+5	3.5	17.4
750	567¾	Greene King	741½		2.7	18.3
385	164½	Grosvenor Invst	215½		3.5	20.8
285	204	Groupe Chez Ger	280½	-1	1.3	27.4
357	276½	Hardy Hanson	298½		4.4	13.5
3475	2700	Holt J	2750	-25	2.6	14.8
78	45	Inn Business†	72½		2.7	
357	298	Mansfield	356	-1	2.3	16.4
353½	252	Mrston Thmp	291½	-1	3.2	10.9
659	524	Morland	607½		2.8	16.0
72½	37½	Paramount	38½			
666½	217	PizzaExpress†	666½	+9	0.5	43.5
438	345	Ramsdens (H)†	430	+2½	1.5	
378½	138¾	Regent Inns†	344½	-2	0.9	32.9
700	601	Scott & New	681½	-2½	3.7	20.6
313	246	Vaux Group	285	-1½	4.6	13.6
1255	840	Wetherspoon JD	1187½	+2½	1.0	28.0
819	672	Whitbread	805	-3	3.5	16.4
706½	578	Wolvrhmptn D	702½		3.0	15.5
498½	297	Yates Bros	488½	+6	1.0	31.6
650	425	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
467½	328	Electrocomponts	426½	-1½	2.1	25.8
314	125½	Eurodis Elect	201½	-2	3.1	28.7
156	65	Eurodollar	137	...	5.5	13.9
185	76	European Mtr	88	...	7.5	8.0
375	217	Evans Halshaw	257½	-1	8.0	10.1
87	39½	Fife Indmar	50½		8.2	7.6
397½	239¾	[illegible]	386½		2.1	18.5
34½	16½	Gardiner†	33½		3.5	12.8
81	33½	Glencheyden	76½	-½	2.3	...
110	70½	Gowrings	103½	-1	3.3	17.6
101	72	Hamlet	91½	-1	8.2	8.5
292	216	Harris (Philip)	288		4.2	15.8
320	200½	Headlam	320	+3½	2.3	26.5
200	132	Holders Tech	149		5.0	14.0
242½	153	ISA Intl	225	+½	1.8	
318	237	Inchcape	256½	-1	4.0	21.9
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
260	160	Kwik-Fit	242	+9½	2.7	19.4
390	299	Lex Service†	331½	-½	6.0	10.6
155	105	Lookers	108½		9.7	6.9
17	10½	Malaya Grp	14	+½	6.0	
9¼	5¾	Middlesex	7½	-¼	1.3	11.4
47	31	Midstates	39		0.8	...
595	229	Morgan	284	+10	3.5	7.9
174½	115	Northumber	164		1.1	9.8
370½	201½	Partco†	350	..	3.0	...
404½	272	Pendragon	394½		3.2	..
223½	145	Perry Gp	223½	+13	5.2	
752½	480	Premier Farnell	514½	-2	2.8	20.0
180	135	Quicks Group	146½	+1	5.5	11.0
348	185	REA	323½		1.5	38.8
3	2	Reece	2½			
54	20	Ronson	23	..	8.2	7.9
4½	2	Ross Gp	3			
56	25½	SEP Indl	28½		7.6	7.7
195	55	Saltire	59½	+2	2.1	19.3
417½	246	Time Products	415		3.3	17.0
301½	123	UMECO	237½	...	2.5	17.0
352½	263½	Vardy (Reg)	335½		2.6	14.6
650	325	WF Elect†	612		2.7	22.2
59	25½	Wilshaw	38½	+1½	2.7	11.4
172½	75½	Wyko†	158½		2.1	18.5
154½	104	Young (H)	142½		3.7	12.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
420	288	Antofagasta	407½	+2½	1.8	15.8
387	263	Ascot Hldgs	314½	+2	2.1	
1056	785	[illegible]	845½	-9¾	2.9	18.9
340	229	BTR	271	-6	4.5	14.6
586	417	BAT	554½	-10	6.0	11.7
193½	108	Bibby (J)	186½	+4	5.9	10.8
65	50¾	Brierley Inv	57	-3½	8.1	9.6
972	715	Charter	776	-6½	4.5	11.0
328	205	Cookson	247		4.4	17.6
229½	141	Cosalt†	211		5.8	10.2
312½	204	DCC	305	..	2.8	12.1
141½	109¼	Grampian Hdg	125		6.2	12.9
172½	118½	Harrison Crsfld	137	-1½	9.3	11.3
509¼	379¼	Hutch Whamp	444½	-20¾	2.3	18.8
438½	352	Imperial Tobacco	438½	+4	5.7	8.8
563½	344¼	Jardine Math	387½	-12¼	4.3	
217½	118½	Lonrho†	161	+3	3.9	13.7
191	164	McLeod Russel	172½	..	4.9	14.0
478	368	Powell Duffryn	427½	..	7.3	16.8
146	97	Ropner	145	..	7.1	12.5
232	153½	Staveley	190	+1½	8.1	13.6
607	499½	Swire Pacific	502	-9¾	2.6	18.1
358	268	TT Group	334	+4	2.6	15.9
298½	232½	Tomkins†	265	-4	4.5	14.2
295	167½	[illegible]	205	-2½	8.9	
512½	365	Wardle Storeys	449½		5.3	16.6
387½	254	Wassall	368½	-8	2.1	22.8
237	129½	Whitecroft	160		3.8	12.8
369½	294½	Williams Hldg	330	-2	5.5	14.8

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	30	Simon Eng	43½		1.8	16.2
381	127½	Six Hundred	140½	-1	4.2	2.8
833½	622	Smiths Ind	813½	-1	2.5	20.9
786½	583	Spirax-Sarco	656	+1½	2.9	17.0
324	281½	Sterling Ind	282½		3.9	14.2
593½	458	TI	585½	+9½	3.1	19.2
124	92	Tinsley (E)	112½		6.6	11.7
121	72	[illegible]	120	+½	2.4	21.4
212½	140	Triplex Lloyd	188	-1	4.7	10.6
167½	137	Unicorn Intl	167½		4.1	14.9
82½	47½	Utd Inds	62½		4.9	17.6
302	241	Vickers	270½		3.2	16.7
14	8¼	Villiers Grp	9¼			
770	621	Vitec	638	+1	2.1	11.9
952	750	Vosper Thorny	914		3.1	15.3
436	293	Wagon Ind	321	-2½	7.7	9.8
273½	203½	Weir	220½	+3	4.9	13.7
275	228	Wellington Hdg	256½	-1	4.8	
59	25	[illegible]	29½		7.7	6.4
61½	26	Wescol	59	+½	2.1	22.6
575	383	Whatman	530		2.9	21.7
122	42½	Widney†	55		8.0	16.6

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
151	109	Adwest†	129	+½	7.6	18.2
285	180	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
756	473	Avon Rubber	756	+1	3.2	14.6
107	57¾	BSG	101½	-1½	4.0	15.8
353	227¾	[illegible]	257½	+2½	3.3	10.6
29	15	Boustead#	16½	..	7.6	38.7
787	431	First Tech	689		1.7	20.4
1186	778	GKN	1011½	-9	3.3	15.3
3800	2350	[illegible]	3816½	-18¾	3.5	
889	497	Henlys†	540½	+11½	3.5	12.8
1975½	1312¾	Honda Motor	1812½	-91½	0.4	
502	357½	Laird	358	-2	4.3	10.8
262	172	[illegible]	205		0.0	
165	91	Mayflower	164		1.7	30.6
193	145	Syltone	170½		4.3	12.5
190½	120½	T & N	164½	-2	4.6	
116	39½	Toad	39½			
433	252½	Trinity Hldgs	336½		3.1	17.2

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BRITISH FUNDS

House of Lords

Law Report March 14 1997

Council possession action lawful

Harrow London Borough Council v Johnstone

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, *Lord Jauncey* of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde

[Speeches March 13]

Where a wife was joint tenant with her husband of the matrimonial home, a council house, and on the break-up of the marriage gave notice to the council terminating the tenancy, neither she nor the *council was in contempt of* a court order restraining her from excluding or attempting to exclude the husband from the house and proceedings by the council for possession were not an abuse of the process of the court.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Harrow London Borough Council from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russell and *Sir Roger Parker, Lord Justice* Hobhouse dissenting) (*The Times* March 31, 1995; (1995) 93 LGR 435) who had dismissed the council's appeal against the dismissal by Judge Hunter at Willesden County Court on August *9, 1994* of its *claim* for possession against the husband, Maurice Ernest Johnstone.

Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Frank Feehan for the council; Mr Nicholas Underhill and Mr Adrian Jack for Mr Johnstone.

LORD MUSTILL said that the tenancy agreement had provided that the tenants might terminate the tenancy, a secure tenancy under the *Housing* Act 1985, by four weeks written notice.

The *marriage* had run into difficulties, and in 1992 the wife had commenced divorce proceedings, although they had not been immediately pursued and had not reached the stage of a decree until 1995.

In February 1994, matters had come to a head. The wife had left the house with the children and the husband had applied to the county *court for a prohibited steps order* under the Children Act 1989 and an injunction under the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976.

The judge had made, ex parte, the prohibited steps order and an order forbidding the wife: "(whether by [herself] or by instructing or encouraging any other person) (1) to use or threaten violence against the applicant or in any way to harass or otherwise interfere with [him]; (2) to exclude or attempt to exclude [him] from [the house]."

Since Mr Johnstone had remained in possession of the house and the wife had been unwilling to return she had needed somewhere else to live and had applied to the council. It was, however, contrary *to council policy to provide* accommodation to someone who already had a council tenancy, and it had suggested to her that she should serve notice terminating the joint tenancy, which she had done. At *that time, it had been unaware of* the injunction.

The council had sent Mr Johnstone a copy of the *notice* to terminate and told him that his tenancy would come to an end on *April 25*. On receipt of the notice, he had told it about the injunction.

He had remained in the house, and the council had brought proceedings for possession. His defence was that by giving the notice the wife had been in breach of the injunction and was in *contempt*.

By bringing the proceedings when aware of the injunction the council had aided and abetted her in that breach and was itself in *contempt* and the *proceedings* were an abuse of the process of the court. The judge had accepted that submission and dismissed the council's claim for possession.

In the light of the principles in *Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council v Monk* ([1992] 1 AC 478) the wife's notice had been effective to terminate the joint tenancy and, other things being *equal, the council had* been entitled to possession.

Mr Johnstone's application for an injunction had been made under the 1976 Act. It was plain that the prohibition against excluding him from the house had not been intended to be a mandatory order requiring the wife to cooperate in maintaining in force the rights created by the joint tenancy *pending* the adjustment of those rights in matrimonial proceedings for proprietary relief not yet started. It had been concerned with the exercise of rights under the tenancy, not with the continued *existence of the rights themselves*.

Mr Johnstone's second line of argument relied on the general interest in preserving the integrity of the judicial process.

It was based primarily on *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd* ([1992] 1 AC 191), the *Spycatcher* case, reinforced by *Attorney-General v Leveller Magazine Ltd* ([1979] AC 440). The differences, however, from the *Spycatcher* case were fatal to his argument. No proceedings designed to yield *proprietary relief* had been in existence at the relevant time. No inference of an intention to frustrate the aim of the proceedings could be drawn from *the council's dealings with the* wife, since there had been no proceedings to frustrate.

Mr Johnstone then advanced a more extreme argument: that the council should have foreseen that there were, or might be in the future, proceedings in which the court would be called on to address the proprietary rights of the spouses and that the destruction of the tenancy would cause irreparable damage to Mr Johnstone.

His Lordship acknowledged the appeal of the argument in human terms, but the council had simply been *carrying through* the logic of its housing policy: that one person could not have two council tenancies at the same time.

He found it impossible to hold that by putting its statutory duty as housing authority before the interests of a matrimonial relationship of which it was not the guardian it had contemptuously subverted the authority of the court or intentionally nullified the aims of any legal proceedings.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Jauncey and Lord Clyde agreed and Lord Hoffmann delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Mustill.

Solicitors: Mr Roger Vergine, Harrow; Rosenbergs, Kentish Town.

Court of Appeal

Second charge on same facts

Regina v Beedie

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Timothy Walker

[Judgment March 11]

In *Connelly v DPP* ([1964] AC 1254) the majority of the House of Lords identified a narrow principle of autrefois convict, applicable only when the second indictment charged the same offence as the first, and said that judicial discretion should be exercised in other appropriate cases.

The Court of Appeal so stated *in* a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of Thomas Sim Beedie and quashing his conviction on April 19, 1996 at Sheffield Crown Court (Judge Clarke), following a plea of guilty, of manslaughter for which he received an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

Mr Robert Smith, QC and Mr Bernard Gateshill, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr K. R. Keen, QC, and Mr D. Tremberg for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, *delivering the judgment of the* court, said that on November 29, 1993 a woman aged 19 died of carbon monoxide poisoning caused by the use of a defective gas fire in her bedsit in Hull.

The appellant was the landlord and had a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure that the appliance was maintained and repaired.

On June 14, 1994 he pleaded guilty in the magistrates court to an offence contrary to section 33 of the 1974 Act arising from a breach of duty imposed by section 3(2). He was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £418 costs.

Proceedings were also taken by the city council against the appellant as manager of the premises, under section 369 of the Housing Act 1985 and regulations 7 and 8 of the *Housing (Management of* Houses in Multiple Housing Occupation) Regulations (SI 1990 No 830) in relation to the state of a number of other gas installations in the same premises. On July 6, 1994 the appellant pleaded guilty before the justices to all charges and was granted a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

The adjourned inquest on the deceased woman was resumed on August 25, 1994. The jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing.

On September 6, 1994 the police, for the first time, notified the Crown Prosecution Service about the case. On March 25, 1995 the appellant attended for interview by the police and declined to comment. He was charged with manslaughter.

At trial, Mr Smith applied to *stay the indictment, relying on Connelly v DPP*. The judge rejected the submission and thereupon the appellant pleaded guilty.

The first and second grounds of appeal asserted that the judge erred in law in rejecting the plea of autrefois convict and that the judge's analysis of the speeches in *Connelly* led him to conclude, wrongly, that the plea could only be *successful if the legal* characteristics of both offences were the same.

Next it was argued, based on *Connelly*, that the judge had a discretion to stay the proceedings because to proceed with them would offend the general rule that no man should be punished twice for an offence arising out of the same or substantially the same set of facts and to do so would offend the established principle that there should be no sequential trials for offences on an ascending scale of gravity: see the approval of *R v Elrington* ((1861) 1 B & S 688) in *Connelly* (at pp1332, 1357-8, 1367).

It was submitted further that the judge wrongly exercised his discretion in failing to identify special circumstances justifying further proceedings, in carrying out an *inappropriate balancing* exercise, in seeking to distinguish *Connelly* on the ground that the relevant indictment rule, now *rule 9 of the* Indictment Rules (SI 1971 No 1253 (L1)), applied in *Connelly* but not to *the instant proceedings, and in* concluding that the trial process itself was capable of curing any risk of oppression or prejudice.

On reflection, Mr Smith conceded that Mr Justice Clarke's analysis of the speeches in *Connelly* was correct, namely, that the majority of the House of Lords identified a narrow principle of autrefois convict, applicable only where the same offence was alleged in the second indictment. In their Lordships' judgment that concession *was rightly made*.

It followed that their Lordships were unable to accept the view of the editors of *Archbold Criminal Pleading, Evidence & Practice* ((1997) *paragraph* 4-117) that Lord Morris's speech and, in particular, his third and fourth principles expressed at p1305, that the principle of autrefois convict applied to offences which were the same or substantially the same, and an appropriate test was whether the evidence to support the second indictment or the facts constituting the second offence would have been sufficient *to procure a conviction* on the first indictment, represented the ratio of the House's decision.

The majority of their Lordships in *Connelly* defined autrefois convict in the narrow way, to apply when the second indictment charged the same offence as the first, and said that judicial discretion should be exercised in other *appropriate cases*.

It was apparent that the principal focus of the appeal was on the way in which Mr Justice Clarke had exercised the discretion which it was common ground he had.

In their Lordships' judgment, Mr Smith's submissions in relation to the judge's exercise of discretion were all well founded. Although the judge carefully and accurately analysed the effect of the speeches in *Connelly*, which was no mean feat, in applying those principles to the exercise of his discretion he fell into error.

First, *he* failed to consider whether there were special circumstances and there were none. The public interest in a prosecution for manslaughter and the understandable concern of the victim's family were, no doubt, good reasons for allowing the prosecution to proceed. They did not, however, give rise to special circumstances.

Second, he carried out a balancing exercise when that was inappropriate.

Third, *he sought to distinguish Connelly* on the basis of the Indictment Rules, when no such distinction was to be found.

Fourth, he took into account, inappropriately, the question of whether there could be a fair trial.

It seemed to their Lordships that, the judge having exercised his discretion on a flawed basis, *it* was open to the court to exercise its discretion.

There being no special circumstances in the present case the general *rule should have* prevailed. A stay should have been ordered because the manslaughter allegation was based on substantially the same facts as the earlier *summary* prosecutions and gave rise to a prosecution for an offence of greater gravity, no new facts having occurred, in breach of the *Elrington* principle.

Although their Lordships differed from the judge, it should be noted that he faced a very unusual and difficult task. He had to make a decision in the light of intense local public interest, guidance from the *House of Lords*, which had been widely misunderstood by practitioners for over 30 years, and submissions from counsel which had not been honed before him to the precision which they achieved before their Lordships.

Their Lordships could see no reason why, prior to the institution of the summary proceedings, the Crown Prosecution Service should not have been alerted by the police, the Health and Safety Executive or the local authority to the inquiry which was being undertaken into the death of the unfortunate young woman.

Had that been done, it should have been possible for a sensible joint decision to be reached as to what charges could and should have been properly brought against the appellant, and no doubt manslaughter *would have* been among them.

It was understood that liaison between the separate prosecuting authorities in the North East had now improved, so that the history of the present prosecution should not be repeated. Their Lordships expressed the hope and expectation that a like degree of liaison already existed in other parts of the country.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Humberside.

Declaration discharged on making reference

Regina v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Seymour-Smith and Another

Before Lord Mustill, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches March 13]

A declaration that the effect of the provision introduced by the Unfair Dismissal (Variation of Qualifying Period) Order (SI 1985 No 782), that an employee must have been continuously employed for two years to qualify for the protection against unfair dismissal conferred by section 54(1) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, indirectly discriminated *against women between 1985 and* 1991 and was incompatible with the principle of equal treatment enshrined in Directive 76/207/EEC (OJ 1976 L39/40), served no useful purpose as it could not affect the rights and duties of employees and their employers and would be discharged.

Instead, a reference would be *made* to the European Court of Justice to establish whether the 1985 Order infringed article 119 of the EC Treaty.

The House of Lords so held in considering preliminary points in an appeal by the Secretary of State for Employment against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Schiemann) (*The Times* August 3, 1995; [1995] ICR 889) allowing an appeal by the *applicants, Ms Seymour-Smith* and Ms Laura Perez, from the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court of their application for judicial review.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Stephen Richards for the secretary of state; Mr Robin Allen, QC and Mr Peter Duffy for the applicants.

LORD HOFFMANN said that by virtue of a consistent juris*prudence of the European Court of* Justice it was acte claire that a directive, as such, had no effect upon the rights of parties such as the applicants and their employers. The position was otherwise when the question concerned the rights and duties of the citizen as against the state or one of its emanations: see *Marshall v Southampton and South-West Hampshire Area Health Authority* (Case 152/84) ([1986] QB 401; [1986] ECR 723).

It was therefore, acte claire that a declaration such as was made by the Court of Appeal would not *enable the employees to pursue* their proceedings in the industrial court. Would it serve any other purpose?

The difficulty was that the declaration was not that United Kingdom *legislation* was incompatible with Community law. It was that such an incompatibility existed in May 1991. That was founded upon evidence that the two year *qualifying* period had a considerably greater adverse impact *upon women* than upon men during the years 1985 to 1991.

It was not evident that it was having such a discriminatory effect at the time of the judgment in the summer of 1995. On the contrary, *the evidence showed* that by 1993 the gap between the men and women who qualified had narrowed.

Thus the declaration neither enabled the employees to sue for unfair dismissal nor told the government that United Kingdom legislation needed to be changed because it was incompatible with Community law.

It was contended that the declaration could found a *Francovich* claim against the state: see *Francovich and Boniface v Italian Republic* (Cases C-6 and 9/90) ([1995] ICR 722).

In *R v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* ([1995] 1 AC 1) the House refused to make a declaration on similar grounds. Lord Keith of Kinkel said (at p32) that it would be inappropriate as the Attorney-General would be the defendant in any proceedings directed at enforcing it and the issues raised would not necessarily be the same.

There were no grounds upon which that reasoning did not apply to the present case.

A person claiming to be entitled as a matter of private law to compensation for unfair dismissal *should ordinarily bring* proceedings in the industrial tribunal even if they raised an issue of incompatibility between domestic and Community law. But this was an exceptional case. The question of compatibility with article 119 was raised for the first time in the Court of Appeal and the court was satisfied that it was right to give leave to amend.

Subject to one matter it raised the same issues as the question of incompatibility with the Directive and could be resolved by the evidence which was before the Divisional Court.

The position was the same before the House and the parties had come prepared to deal with it. It would, therefore, be wrong to tell the employees at that stage that they had to start again before the industrial tribunal.

The House should entertain the appeal. However, the parties were agreed that it was necessary to enable the House to give judgment that the European Court of Justice be requested to give preliminary rulings on certain question on the construction of article 119.

Lord Mustill, Lord Jauncey, *Lord Slynn* and *Lord* Nicholls agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Ms Gay Moon, Camden.

Negligent detention cannot be revived

W v Home Office

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment February 19]

A immigration officer's decision whether to detain a person under the Immigration Act 1971 did not *give rise to any duty of care* which could result in an action for negligence.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff asylum seeker, W, against the dismissal by Sir Michael Davies, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division on June 6, 1996 on the trial of preliminary issues, dismissing his action for damages for negligence against the Home Office.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff; Mr John Howell, QC and Mr Robin Tam for the Home Office.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the question was whether the Home Secretary or an immigration officer owed a duty of care to an individual detained by virtue of paragraph 16 of Schedule *2 to the Immigration Act 1971* when making a decision whether to release that individual from detention and when taking the steps were required reach that decision.

The plaintiff wished to push forward the boundaries of the tort of negligence or, as he submitted, revive a forgotten cause of action of negligent detention.

Many authorities had considered recently where the boundaries should be drawn. The applicable principles were:

1 For a duty of care to arise, in addition to the foreseeability of damage, necessary ingredients were that there should exist between the party owing the duty and the party to whom the duty was owed a relationship of proximity and that the situation should be one *in which the court considered* it fair, just and reasonable that the law should impose a duty.

2 It would normally be unnecessary to embark on any further inquiry whether it was fair, just and reasonable if a person had assumed responsibility to another in respect of services.

3 The mere existence of a relationship brought about by one party exercising a statutory power vis-à-vis another was not sufficient to found proximity on its own.

4 There could be no liability in respect of anything done within the ambit of a discretion conferred by statute.

5 It was less likely that a duty of care would be imposed on a person exercising his public duty, that is, even where the statutory duty was being implemented, if:

(i) a potential conflict could arise between the carrying out of the public duty and acting defensively for fear of an action in negligence being brought;

(ii) where the category of public servant was one similar to the police or the Crown Prosecution Service and where:

(a) the general sense of public duty of such servants was unlikely to be appreciably reinforced by the imposition of liability;

(b) the recognition of the existence of a cause of action even in quite limited circumstances would be likely to lead to the bringing of a substantial number of cases and a diversion of the public servants concerned away from their duties contrary to the general public's interest; and

(c) where there were other private law remedies available if there was a deliberate abuse of *power and public law remedies* available to challenge decisions.

The application of each of those principles to the situation under consideration was inconsistent with the existence of a duty of care being owed by the immigration officer to the immigrant.

In gathering information and taking it into account the immigration officers were acting pursuant *to their statutory powers* and within that area of their discretion where only deliberate abuse would provide a private remedy.

For them to owe a duty of care to immigrants would be inconsistent with the proper performance of their responsibilities as immigration officers. In conducting their inquiries, and making decisions in relation to immigrants, including whether they should be detained pending those inquiries, they were acting in that capacity of public servant to which the considerations outlined above applied.

It would not be fair or reason*able to impose liability for negligence* in the case of an immigration officer performing his public duty.

Solicitors: Winstanley-Burgess; Treasury Solicitor.

Computer program is not a patentable invention

In re Patent Application No 9204959.2 by Fujitsu Ltd

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment March 6]

A patent application, entitled "Method and apparatus for creating synthetic crystal structure images", in essence a method for modelling on computer a crystal structure for use in designing inorganic materials in the field of *chemistry and physics*, was a computer program as such, and thus not a patentable invention.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal from the dismissal by Mr Justice Laddie in the Patents Court of the Chancery Division (*The Times* June 18, 1996), of an appeal from the rejection by the Principal Examiner on June 23, 1995, of a patent application by Fujitsu Ltd on the ground that it was excluded by section 1(2) of the Patents Act 1977.

Mr Colin Birss for Fujitsu, *instructed by Haseltine Lake & Co*, Bristol, patent attorneys; Mr Michael Silverleaf, QC, for the Comptroller General of Patents.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said *that the basic idea utilised a* computer programmed so that the operator could select an atom, a lattice vector and a crystal face in each of two crystal structures displayed on the display unit.

Upon instruction the computer, using the selected requirements, converted data representing the physical layouts of the two crystal structures into data representing the physical layout of the crystal structure that would be obtained by combining the original two structures in such a way that the two selected structures were superposed.

The resulting data was then displayed to give a picture of the combined structure. The crystal structures the inventor particularly had in mind were those of *semiconductors and* superconductors.

Having considered the relevant claims in the present application, his Lordship said that it was and always had been a principle of patent law that mere discoveries or ideas were not patentable, but those which had a technical aspect or made a technical contribution were.

That was the basis for the decision of the Technical Board of Appeal in *VICOM/Computer-related inventions* (Case T 208/84) ([1987] EPOR 74), had been accepted by the Court of Appeal and by the European Patent Office, had been applied since 1987 and was at the heart of patent law.

Mr Birss submitted, inter alia, that the *VICOM* case showed that *patent applications for processing* images of real things were not excluded from being patentable.

His Lordship did not find the board's reasoning as to what was the technical contribution easy to ascertain. But the decision did not conclude that all claims to processing real images were patentable; and there was no reason why, if they were, the same reasoning should not apply to all useful images. There, the technical contribution was not the fact that an image was being produced. It was the way the enhanced image was *produced*.

No such contribution existed in *Gale's Application* ([1991] RPC 305), which related to a ROM programmed to enable a computer to carry out a mathematical calculation, or in *Merrill Lynch's Application* ([1989] RPC 561), which had claims to a data processing system for making a trading market in securities. Each case had to be decided on its own facts.

Mr Birss also relied on the form of the claims, that claim 10, directed as it was to a computer apparatus having a number of *features, and claim 9, directed to a* method of manufacturing a structure, could not be said to relate to an invention consisting of computer program as such.

However, that could not be right since the Court of Appeal in *Gale's Application* held that the court *should look* at the claims as a matter of substance: it was both convenient and right to strip away, as a confusing irrelevance, the fact that the claim was for "hardware".

Mr Birss further contended that the application provided a new tool for modelling crystal structure combinations which relieved the chemist of the laborious task of building a model.

His Lordship said that counsel was right that a computer set-up according to the teaching in the patent application provided a tool *for modelling such combinations* which avoided labour and error, but those were just the sort of advantages obtained by the use of a computer program.

The application, in the present case, was for a computer program as such. The combined structure was the result of the directions given by the operator and use of the program. The computer was *conventional as was the display* unit.

The two displays of crystal structures were produced by the operator. He then provided the appropriate way of superposition and the program did the rest. The resulting display was the combined structure shown pictorially in a form that would in the past have been produced as a model.

The only advance was the computer program which enabled the combined structure to be portrayed quicker. Thus the application did not relate to a patentable invention, and was excluded by section 1(2)(c) of the 1977 Act.

Lord Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice Roch agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

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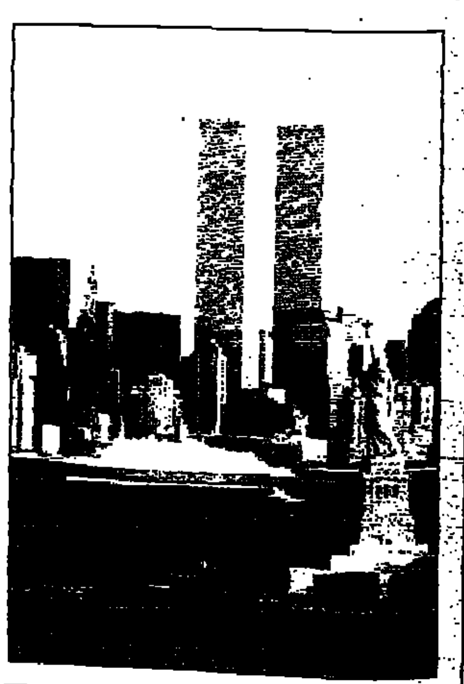

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF PERHAM SECURITIES LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

On 6 March 1997 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. Jonathan Guy Anthony Phillips of Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL has been appointed liquidator.

Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidator at the *above address*.

Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidator. The liquidator reserves his right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.

Date 10 March 1997.
JGA Phillips
Liquidator
"Authenticated for insertion in the London Gazette"
JULIA PRINCE
Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England - Wales.

Prototype Design Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 3rd April 1997 at 14.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.

It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning *Liquidators remuneration*, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors *can be inspected at the offices of* Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

DATED THIS 11th March 1997
Robert Davis - Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
ROBERT MICHAELS SERVICES LIMITED
AND
ROBERT MICHAELS COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Companies will be held at Old Library Chambers, 21 Chipper Lane, Salisbury Wilts SP1 1BG on 18th March 1997 at 10.30am and *11.30am respectively, for the* purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Companies creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Old Library Chambers, 21 Chipper Lane, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 1BG between 10.00am and 4.00pm on 14th March 1997 and 17th March 1997.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meetings must lodge a full statement of account and (unless attending in person) a proxy at Old Library Chambers, 21 Chipper Lane, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 1BG no later than 12.00 noon on *17th March 1997. Secured creditors* must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meetings.

It should be noted that a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated may be passed at the above meetings.

Dated 4th March 1997
By Order of the Board
R C JONES, Director

921369
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION OF
PERHAM SECURITIES LIMITED

At an extraordinary general meeting of Perham Securities Limited held at the offices of Meier and Wolf, FL 9490 Vaduz, Lettstrasse 8, Postfach 656, Furstentum Liechtenstein on 6 March 1997 at 2 pm the following extraordinary resolution was passed:

'That the company cannot by reason of its liabilities continue its business and that the company be wound up voluntarily'

Chairman of the meeting
Authenticated for insertion in the London Gazette
JULIA PRINCE
Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
LAVENHAM INVESTMENTS LIMITED
(In Creditors'. Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Christopher John Barlow and Nigel Steven Hill of Cork Gully, Hill House, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth BH2 6HR were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named Company on 26 *February 1997 by the members* and creditors.

In order to formally establish the claims of creditors against the Company notice is also hereby given that the creditors of the Company are required on or before 23 April 1997 to send in writing their names and *addresses and the particulars of* their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to Christopher John Barlow and Nigel Steven Hill of Cork Gully, Hill House, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth BH2 6HR, the Joint Liquidators of the said Company. If so *required by notice in writing* from the said Joint Liquidators, such creditors, either personally or by their Solicitors shall attend at such time and place as shall be specified by the Joint Liquidators to prove their debts and claims. In default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. A proof of debt is a document stating the amount of the creditor's claim and (subject to Rule 4.76 of the Insolvency Rules 1986) may be in any form.

Dated March 10 1997
Christopher John Barlow and Nigel Steven Hill Joint Liquidators

L M Young Trading Co Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF at 11am on 27 March 1997 for the purposes of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if *it thinks fit*, establish a committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors' committees by or under the Act.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Other creditors are entitled to vote if:-

They have delivered to us at 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, no later than 12 00 pm on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and

There has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

Dated 11 March 1997 L A Manning Joint Administrative Receiver

COMPANY NOTICES

SPANISH 4% EXTERNAL LOAN (1974 Issue) The coupons due on 1st April 1997 may be presented for payment at Banco Exterior de España S.A. 1-4 Great Tower Street, London EC3R 5AH between the hours of 10am and 2pm. London 14th March 1997

FINANCIAL NOTICES

THE CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST
Abstract of Audited Accounts
For the Year Ended 31 December 1996

	(£)	(£)
Funds and Provisions		
Endowment Fund		27,496,902
Other Funds		1,203,735
		28,700,637
Reserve Fund		
As at 31 December 1995		1,150,921
Income from investments, etc		1,517,088
		2,668,009
Less		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	1,153,368	
Other Expenditure	310,906	
		1,464,274
As at 31 December 1996		1,203,735

C JOHN NAYLOR
Secretary and Treasurer
Comely Park House, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 7EJ
12 March 1997

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■ THEATRE 1

Gemma Jones prepares to play the role of one of the founding mothers of psychoanalysis

■ THEATRE 2

... while, in Martin Crimp's *Attempts on her Life*, one woman personifies all of modern life

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC

At the Barbican. Rostropovich returns to some of the scores that he inspired

■ TOMORROW

Some of the oldest painted portraits in the world go on show at the British Museum

THEATRE: *Mrs Klein* previewed in Watford; and a intriguing new play reviewed in London

Shrinking into a dream role

The controversial psychoanalyst Melanie Klein is to be portrayed on stage next week. **Jeremy Kingston** reports

This week's new arrival at the National Theatre, the musical *Lady in the Dark*, is that stage rarity: a work that explores the seething inner world of a person undergoing psychoanalysis. A magazine editor tells her shrink about the men in her life and the sung scenes show how they feature in her dreams. Films have often made use of dreams. Most of *A Matter of Life and Death* happens inside David Niven's head. But in the theatre — outside musicals — the interpretation of dreams rarely features.

One recent exception was Terry Johnson's marvellous *Hysteria*, where the dying Sigmund Freud, high on painkillers and assailed by ancient guilts, watches in horror as the contents of his unconscious spill across the stage. One of the stage directions memorably reads: *Freud picks up the phone. It turns into a lobster.*

Johnson's play was doubly unusual in that the principal character was a psychoanalyst, and the most famous of them all. When analysts feature in plays, and in films too, it is almost always as peripheral characters, like the doctors in Chekhov plays: there to shed light on the guarded fears of others.

So far as I know, no one has yet presented Jung as the protagonist of a play, though since he appears to have made a habit of seducing girl patients the day cannot be far off before we see one — perhaps titled *Jung and Foolish*.

But five years before Johnson brought Freud on to the stage of the Royal Court, Nicholas Wright had introduced audiences at the National to the formidable, larger-than-life figure of Melanie Klein, the woman who put the breast into analysis. His *Mrs Klein* opened at the Cottesloe in 1988, transferred to the West End and then to Broadway. Uta Hagen has just played it in Los Angeles. And in Watford, to come closer to home, Gemma Jones opens next Friday in a production by Irina Brook.

Melanie Klein was the most influential of that generation of analysts who came after the founding father. Born in 1882, the youngest child of a Viennese dentist, she married young and in order to do so was obliged to abandon her medical studies. This later exposed her to much criticism from those of her colleagues who wanted to keep analysis as a branch of medicine.

But it's an ill wind, as they say, and since she was discouraged from analysing adults, she turned to children and realised that play was the child's mode of exploring and expressing his conflicts. Her discovery of the violent and sadistic nature of children's "phantasies", largely focused on the mother's breast, caused indignation. In 1926 she came to England and remained until her death in 1960, continuing almost to the last to arouse opposition from analysts who believed her work to have become inconsistent with Freud's.

> Klein's theories of sadism in child's play caused uproar

This is the background to Wright's play, but really one needs to know nothing of it to enjoy the drama he creates from two crucial days in her life in the spring of 1934. One of her sons has died on a Hungarian mountain; her daughter Melitta (a doctor as well as an analyst) is preparing to go over to her enemies; and a refugee from Berlin is about to take the role of Melitta's rival sibling. The scene is set for a remarkable display of longing, rage, verbal pyrotechnics and wit.

The production at Watford brings its own parent-child echoes. Irina Brook is the daughter of Peter. Gemma Jones followed her father Griffith Jones on to the stage, and in her first London production appeared with him in Anouilh's *The Cavern*. Since then she has become widely known through *The Duchess of Duke Street* and as Mrs Dashwood in the film of *Sense and Sensibility*. On a table in her south Hampstead home lie several books by and about Klein. Her embroidered jacket could easily pass as Central European and she even leans forward, elbows on knees, as though about to hand out wooden dolls and watch them being bashed together.

"It's a lovely part to do," she says. "She used her own children, you know. Watched them play. That's one of the things Melitta holds against her." We can think ourselves fortunate not to have had Mrs Klein as a mother, but watching a fine actress play her, in a major revival, will be a rare treat.

● Mrs Klein *is in preview at the Watford Palace (01923 225671) from next Friday, and opens on March 25*

PAUL FIEVEZ

Gemma Jones plays the title role in a new production of *Mrs Klein* at the Palace Theatre, Watford

LONDON CONCERTS

Slava's choice

LSO/Rostropovich
Barbican

IT IS a tribute to the artistic integrity of Mstislav Rostropovich, and to the confidence he inspires, that he could conduct such an austere programme as that presented by the London Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday and still draw a respectable audience. The second of five concerts celebrating Slava's 70th birthday, this programme brought together three works written for and premiered by him.

Walton's *Prologo e Fantasia*, a short piece not completed until 1981, turned out to be the composer's last work. The *Prologo*, marked Lento maestoso, is fiercely declamatory: indeed, its character is said to reflect Walton's anger at Rostropovich's expulsion from the Soviet Union. It is not one of Walton's more persuasive pieces.

Lutoslawski's *Novelette*, written in 1979, is also an unsettling piece, but to more fruitful effect. Its structure is both coherently organised and readily discerned, with thematic fragments threading their way through the five movements (an Announcement, three Events and a Conclusion). But *Novelette* is a study in disintegration as much as construction, and Rostropovich and the LSO skilfully delineated the freewheeling passages of unravelling texture.

For Schnittke's Symphony No 6, the anger of the Walton combined with the imagination of the Lutoslawski to produce a score of uncompromising severity, with a spareness that speaks of some dark and deeply pessimistic moral vision.

The most notable feature of the first movement is the extended paragraphs of growling brass low in their register — like an interminable funeral procession — offset by dialogues for high violins, low strings or other combinations. Indeed, the movement proceeds at a steady pace (in Rostropovich's reading), and it is not until the Presto second movement that things catch fire. The third movement, Adagio, was taken at what seemed an excessively lugubrious tempo. But the intensity was there, as it was in the finale.

All credit to Rostropovich and the LSO for rendering these difficult but strangely complementary scores so convincingly.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Dark dreaming

Håkan Hagegård
Wigmore Hall

THE Wigmore Hall was dark on Thursday. And out of the gloom rose the sweet, thin voice of a violin, singing of the stars. The words followed from the shadows at the back of the hall — "*Som stjärnen uppå himmeln klar*" (like the stars in the bright sky) and a figure made his way up the aisle and on to the stage.

This was the start of Håkan Hagegård's little *Nordic Drama*: a set of six songs from Sweden, Norway and Finland, with Mozart (Don Giovanni's serenade, *Deh vieni*) as a rather embarrassed link-man between unaccompanied folk fiddle and piano-accompanied Wilhelm Stenhammar. This latter was a song called *Florez and Blanzefor*, a sort of Pre-Raphaelite salon melodrama, and its presence typified the elusive stream of consciousness which seemed to be linking (or otherwise) the individual songs.

With Hagegård variously turning his back on the audience for a short, violent *King Erik's Last Song* by the Swedish composer Ture Rangström, then clinging to a marble pillar as if it were a rockface for Grieg's *The Mountain Thrall*, this Nordic drama began to resemble a surreal dream play. Sibelius's *Was it a Dream?* led to a return of the violin with its modal melancholy.

The Wigmore Hall audience has quite an appetite for this sort of thing, so it was a pity that Hagegård did not extend his dreamplay to the whole of the first half. Instead, he completed it with four popular Schubert songs: a *very* risky enterprise in this hall.

Both Hagegård and, particularly, pianist Elisabeth Boström were more at ease in a group of songs by Richard Strauss, which revealed the wide expressive range of Hagegård's baritone. And then a welcome performance of the American composer Dominick Argento's *A few words about Chekhov*, graphically recreated, in costume, by Hagegård, Boström and the vivacious Swedish soprano Charlotte Hellekant.

HILARY FINCH

Little cipher Annie

Attempts on her Life
Ambassadors

Near the end of Martin Crimp's 100-minute play at the Ambassadors Upstairs, the eight-person cast leaps on to chairs and launches into a parody Cole Porter number about a woman called Anne. She isn't the top, still less the Mona Lisa or the Eiffel Tower; but she is an artist, a femme fatale, a porn star, a terrorist, a refugee, the presidential candidate for a warring state, and "the girl next door". She is a capsule person for 1997, or, rather, a compendium of the women we might put into a time capsule and shoot into space, especially if we wanted aliens to sense our worried, fin-de-millennium mood.

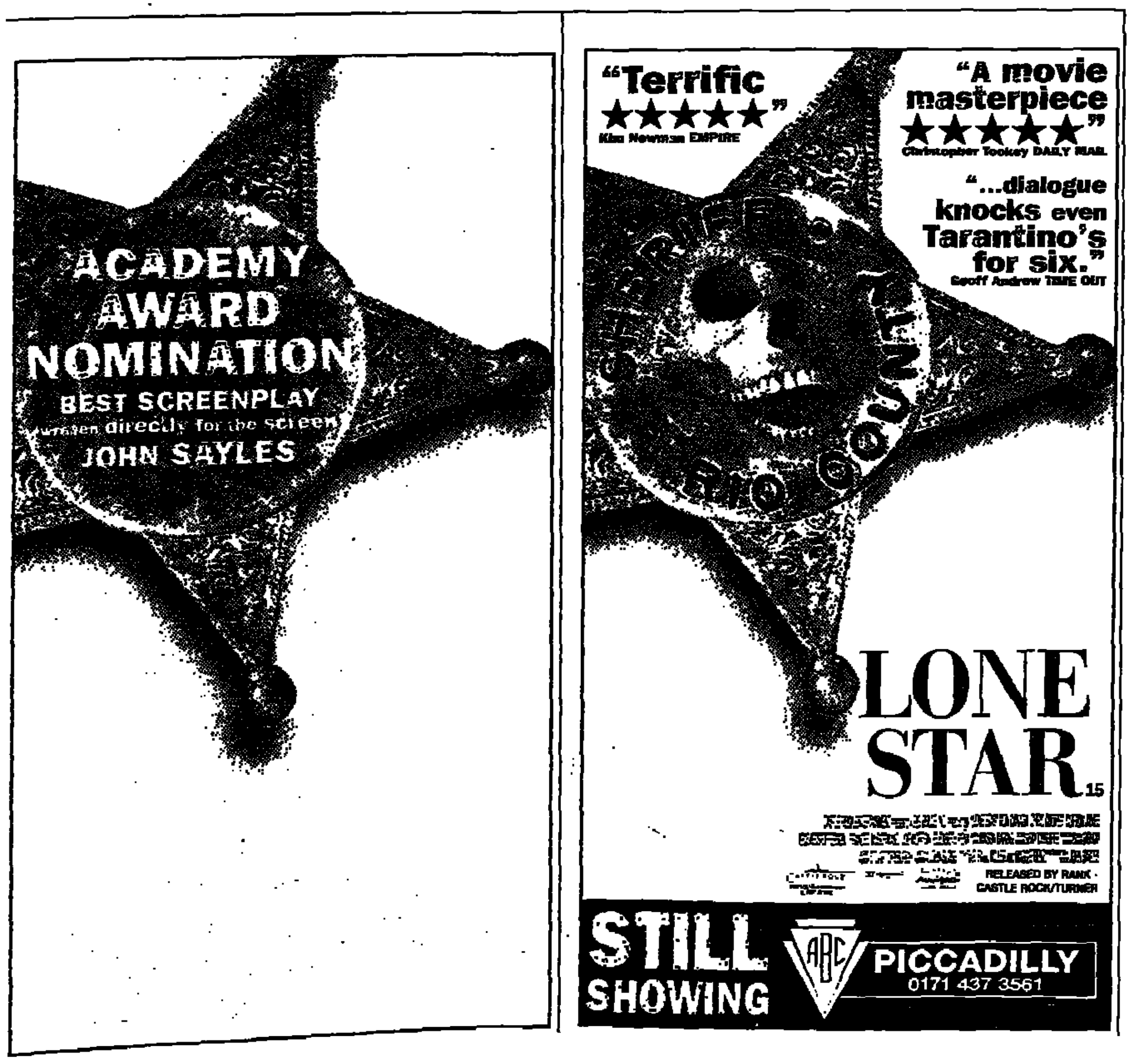
The rest of an unconventional, absorbing play consists of sketches, conversations or monologues about the always absent Anne, Annie, Anya or little Annushka. She is the icily murderous member of the Baader-Meinhof gang, and the wife of an American militiaman dedicated to hunting gays and Jews. She is a traveller who, bewildered by a life spent partly with starving Africans and partly beside millionaires' swimming pools, drowns herself. She is a raging avant-garde sculptor, a dead child driven by her demented mother out of a war zone, a celebrity, a conventional bore, even a car named the Anna.

I began to worry during a short section in which she was described as a nymphomaniac who spoke five languages and had discovered a particle "which will completely change the way we look at the Universe". Was there anything Anne wasn't? Was Crimp's invention wholly arbitrary? At different times the actors sit at a dinner table, peer from red, smoking holes, perch in a plane, prepare to set light to a bowed victim. Faces appear on television sets. Projections of X-rayed luggage pass across a big screen. Would it have added or subtracted anything if I had leapt onstage and, accompanied by holograms of bagpipers, declared that Anne was a Russian gymnast with an interest in racing pigeons?

Well, maybe. The play has its motifs, connections and recurring preoccupations. Anne does not just represent confusion. Crimp is absorbed with the mind-splintering contradictions of a world where some are very rich, others very poor, some suffering terribly, others fighting or defending the status quo almost as horribly. At any rate, any alien who unpacks his time-capsule will be left with the impression of a planet on which atrocity-victims perform for gloating TV audiences, and nice people chat while their neighbours run stark mad.

By the end I did not feel inclined to dispute the sharpness of Crimp's prose, the fluency of Tim Albery's production or the excellence of Ashley Jensen, David Fielder and the rest of the cast. But I did go home a mite disconcerted. My wife is called Anne.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



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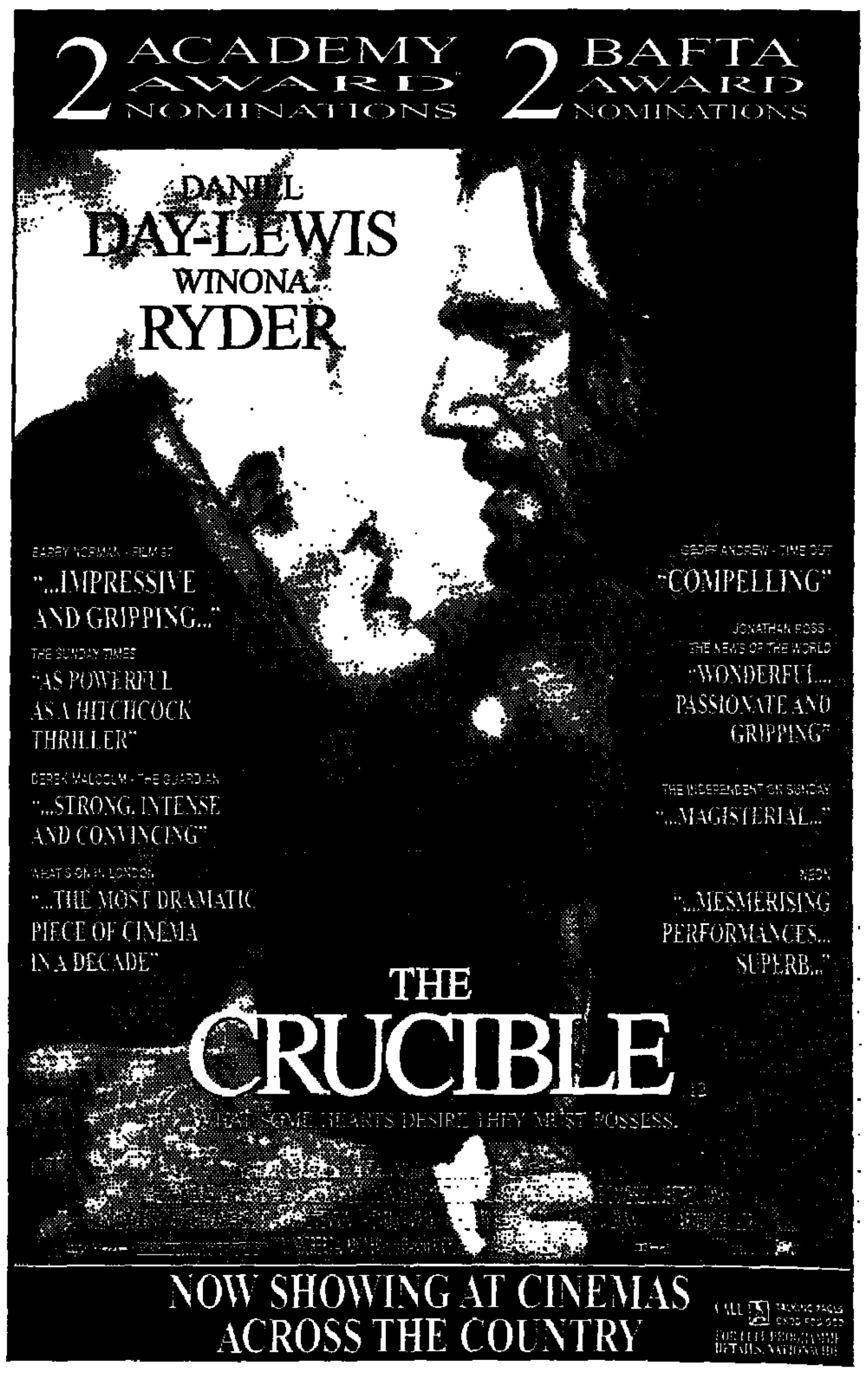

2 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS 2 BAFTA AWARD NOMINATIONS

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WINONA RYDER

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THE CRUCIBLE

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■ CHOICE 1

Roger Norrington leads the LPO through a Haydn Festival

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Festival Hall

■ CHOICE 2

***Madam Butterfly* returns to ENO with Susan Bullock in the title role**

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Coliseum

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ CHOICE 3

. . . while the Royal Opera revives Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*

VENUE: From tomorrow at Covent Garden

■ POP 1

From aggressive rapper to humanity's muse: Michael Franti's rise has been fast and impressive

PETER NICHOLLS

"We were like broccoli," Michael Franti says of his first band. "People listened to us because they knew it was supposed to be good for them"

There's no need to shout

Once, hip-hop poet Michael Franti sent his message clear and loud – too loud. Now, he tells **Alan Jackson**, he does good by stealth

At a time when its highest public visibility comes courtesy of the violent and recently murderous world of gangsta rap, black music needs more men like Michael Franti. Currently chief torchbearer for that socially conscious tradition previously represented by the likes of Marvin Gaye, Bob Marley and Gil Scott-Heron, he is both a chronicler of life on the streets, and an agent for change — but constructively and peaceably so. And on the day we meet, he is musing on the millennium.

"Obviously, not every culture recognises this calendar," he says. "But the whole consumer world does, and that means that six billion people will be forced to reflect on what's happened to their planet, and where it's going. Never before will so many people have joined in celebrating the same holiday. That means an unprecedented energy, an unparalleled momentum for change."

And what will the world wish itself in the dying moments of December 31, 1999? Franti, a 29-year-old from San Francisco, has already conducted his own straw poll. "It was 1995," he recalls, "and we were doing a New Year's Eve show in front of maybe 500 people. And I asked, if it were 1999 tonight and you could give a message to the whole world, what would it be?

"The whole room went silent. Then, eventually, a woman at the back said in a tiny, tremulous voice, 'Happy New Year?' Well, obviously, the whole place cracked up. But to my mind, it takes a lot of strength and love to wish someone, particularly a stranger, happiness in the next year of their life ... all too many people feel they've got cause enough to tell the rest of the world to go screw itself."

But it would be wrong to suppose that Franti, 6ft 6in tall and a former university basketball star, takes a rose-tinted view of life. When he led his first band, he was the archetypal angry young man: "We were like broccoli," he smiles now. "People listened to us because they knew it was supposed to be good for them. Then someone said: 'Hey, I appreciate the message, but it's a very challenging sound — like reading a heavy book.' I learnt from that. Now, I want to make my audience think, but I no longer feel I have to bludgeon them into doing so."

After a spell with the only marginally less aggressive rap group Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy, Franti found his true rhythm as founder-leader of his current band, Spearhead. Their debut album, 1994's *Home*, was exceptional, achieving that rare balance between provocative content and listenability. Its finest moment was the story-song *Positive*. "In the black community, we just don't talk openly about homosexuality, sex with multiple partners, IV drug use," Franti says. "Those issues so central to Aids awareness are taboo for us.

"Meanwhile, the Government had been very slow to respond with funds for education and healthcare, and the situation was really making me mad. But how best to address it musically? I decided to personalise it, to say that I went to get tested and here's what happened while I was waiting for my results. And I've never told any interviewer what they were, because I don't want you to know."

Franti attributes his heightened sense of social awareness both to geography ("San Francisco is a small, enclosed place with so many ethnic and other groups packed into it. You either learn tolerance or leave") and his upbringing. "I was raised within a foster family," he says. "Not knowing my mother and father meant I always wondered about my particular history, and at 18 I began two years of detective work among the public records to try to find them. Finally I did, and I was able to ask what had led to them giving me up. My father is black, but my mother is white and from a racist family.

"It was an amazing experience meeting them and being connected with my source. It helped me to be a lot more accepting about the situation in which I'd grown up and less judgmental about everything else in my life."

Franti is the father of a nine-year-old son, and partially attributes the mellowing process evident on *Home* and a new Spearhead album, *Chocolate Supa Highway*, to his experience of parenthood. "Working in socially conscious music, you're always looking for the Big Bang — that moment when the government is overthrown, the computers die, money is useless and we all go back to living in peace and harmony. But I accept the world doesn't work like that, and I'll settle for trying to make it a better place for the safety and opportunity of my son."

He is grateful that, thanks to the emergence of artists such as D'Angelo, Maxwell, Me'shell Ndegeocello and Erykah Badu, the sales climate is more suited to his intelligent and sensual blend of R&B, hip-hop and dub poetry. "I have to deal with the reality of the business — and that means shifting units," he says. "You say that *Home* was great and I say, thank you, but it didn't sell. This time, I know I've got to get out there and hustle it. Why make music if no one gets to hear it?"

● *Spearhead's* Chocolate Supa Highway *is released by Capitol on Monday. A single,* Why Oh Why?, *is also available*

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

HAYDN FESTIVAL: Music by Britten is linked with Haydn's stunning Paris Symphonies in the first in a series of concerts by the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** under the baton of Roger Norrington. With Sarah Walker, mezzo-soprano. Repeated on March 21
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm. ☒

MADAM BUTTERFLY: Graham Vick's production has been described as one of the jewels in the crown of English National Opera. Susan Bullock reprises her role as the loving geisha in Puccini's enduringly romantic opera. Julian Gavin, David Rendall and Bonaventura Bottone share the role of the caddish Lieutenant Pinkerton.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then on March 19, 26, 29, April 3, 5, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 24, May 1, 7, 10, 13, 16 22 ☒

ROYAL OPERA: Another Graham Vick production, of Wagner's **Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg**, returns to Covent Garden with many of its original cast. John Tomlinson sings the role of the poet-cobbler Hans Sachs, with Thomas Allen, Gösta Winbergh and Nancy Gustafson. Sung in German with English surtitles. Returns only.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Opens tomorrow, 4pm. Further performances on March 18, 21, 24, 5pm ☒

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: Bach's Italian Concerto, performed by the virtuoso pianist **Nikolai Demidenko**, precedes a programme of inspirational works by Liszt, culminating in the *Dante Sonata*.
St George's, Brandon Hill (0117-923 0359). Tonight, 7.30pm. ☒

CARDIFF: Sir Simon Rattle conducts the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** in Britten's harrowing *War Requiem*, which was premiered by the CBSO in Coventry's new cathedral in 1962. With Andrea Gruber, soprano, Robert Tear, tenor, Simon Keenlyside, baritone, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus.
St David's Hall, The Hayes (01222 878444). Tonight, 7.30pm ☒

DERBY: Bill Treacher, Gerard Murphy and Mark Letheren play London cabbies teaming up for a table tennis championship in **Not a Game for Boys**, Simon Block's perceptive and enjoyable play, a recent sell-out at the Royal Court, and now *en route* to the West End.
Playhouse, Eagle Centre (01332 363275). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat (March 29), 2.30pm. Until April 5.

GLASGOW: The American conductor Marin Alsop leads the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** in *The Chairman Dances* by Adams, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 5, *Emperor*, and Brahms's Third Symphony.
Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street (0141-287 5511). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. ☒

HIGH WYCOMBE: Choreographer Paul Douglas's **Small Bones Dance Company** performs two contrasting works at Swan Dance '97: *Mirror* and *Shake of the Hand*.
Wycombe Swan, St Mary Street (01494 512000). Tonight, 8pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Lucie Rie and Hans Coper: Potters in Parallel (0171-638 4141) . . . **British Museum:** Ancient Faces: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt (0171-636 1555) . . . **Dulwich Picture:** Dramatic Art: Theatrical Paintings from the Garrick Club (0181-693 5254) . . . **Goethe-Institut:** Lovis Corinth and His Times (0171-411 3400) . . . **Kapil Jariwala:** Alfred Wallis: Painter 1855-1942 (0171-437 2172) . . . **National:** Young Gainsborough (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait:** August Sander (0171-306 0055) . . . **Portland:** Nina Murdoch (0171-321 0422) . . . **Westminster:** The Society of Women Artists 136th Annual Open (0171-222 2723)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ House full, returns only
- ◩ Some seats available
- ☐ Seats at all prices

◩ **ART**: David Haig, Anton Lesser, Mark Williams take over from the original cast in this interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm. Until October 4

☐ **BADFINGER**: After the success of last year's "Four Corners" season, this year's programme allows a fortnight's run for each of three plays. Kicking off is Wales's Thin Language Theatre Co with Simon Harris's surreal nightmare set in a junk shop, directed by Michael Sheen.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until March 22

☐ **FASCINATING AIDA**: Brief transfer for the threesome, singing of showbiz, impossible men and middle age. Thirteen performances only.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5073). Final performances tonight and tomorrow, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm

■ **GUYS AND DOLLS**: Richard Eyre revives his famous production of the Frank Loesser musical. Imelda Staunton recreates her role of Miss Adelaide. With Harry Goodman, Clarke Peters and Joanna Riding.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Tue, Wed, Thurs, 2pm, Sat, 2pm

■ ***MACBETH***: Fascinating production by Tim Albery, with Roger Allam and Brid Brennan as Mr and Mrs Thane. Adrian Schiller is the funniest Porter ever seen.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2pm. In rep.

☐ **ROMANCE, ROMANCE**: Musical double-bill by Barry Harman and Keith Herrmann, derived from a Schnitzler hit of love in old Vienna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island. Directed by Steven Dexter.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

☐ **ST NICHOLAS**: Brian Cox plays a mean Dublin theatre critic in Conor McPherson's confessional drama. Good to see Cox on stage again but the play is thin.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until March 29

☐ **WASTE**: Peter Hall's bold new seven-nights-a-week repertory starts with Granville Barker's 1926 drama. Originally banned by the Lord Chamberlain for dwelling on what happens when a politician spends a night with a married woman. Felicity Kendal and Michael Pennington head a splendid cast.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. In rep with *Cloud Nine*. Contact box office for details of performance times.

◩ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?**: Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida production of Albee's searing play.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. Until March 22.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) . . . ☐ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . . ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . . . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ■ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite worth all the praise. Director, Anthony Minghella.
Barbican ☒ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE EVENING STAR** (15): Maudlin sequel to *Terms of Endearment*, with Shirley MacLaine and Bill Paxton.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

MOTHER NIGHT (15): American writer in Nazi Germany gets into trouble. Absorbing adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's novel, with Nick Nolte.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

NEVER TALK TO STRANGERS (18): Tame erotic thriller directed, surprisingly, by Peter Hall, with Rebecca DeMornay and Antonio Banderas.
Virgin Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

CURRENT

◆ **BLOOD AND WINE** (15): Seedy adventures of wine merchant Jack Nicholson. Stylish potboiler from director Bob Rafelson.
Ritzy (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ☒ (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

BOUND (18): Flashy thriller about two sultry lesbians and a pile of Mob money, with Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. Directed by the Wachowski brothers.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **FIERCE CREATURES** (PG): Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and *A Fish Called Wanda* team.
Empire (0990-888 990) **UCI Whiteleys** ☒ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ☒ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **JERRY MAGUIRE** (15): A sports PR agent gets a conscience. Enjoyable, if overlong comedy, with Tom Cruise.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ☒ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ☒ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **101 DALMATIANS** (U): Glenn Close knocks spots off the dogs in the live-action edition of the cartoon classic.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** ☒ (0181-315 4215) **UCI Whiteleys** ☒ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ☒ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ☒ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **RANSOM** (15): Intermittently absorbing kidnap drama, with Mel Gibson, Rene Russo and Gary Sinise.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990)

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■ POP 2

Strings, brass and a dash of kitsch make up the sonic stew on My Life Story's new album

■ POP 3

At the age of 76, John Lee Hooker is starting to sound a little weary of the blues

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 4

Those bad old boys, Aerosmith, are back in winning ways with the vintage *Nine Lives*

■ JAZZ

Claire Martin combines brio and sensitivity on an album of classic New York ballads

POP ALBUMS: **David Sinclair** dips into My Life Story's lush tales of the louche, but gets buried alive in the blues

Love with strings attached

Jake Shillingford — that's Mr My Life Story to you — puts his mouth where his heart is on the grand, glamorous and not a little kitsch album, *The Golden Mile*

MY LIFE STORY
The Golden Mile
(Parlophone 7243 8 55628 £9.99)

WHAT with the recent return of ABC and the sudden rise of the Divine Comedy, the stage could not be better set for the unveiling of *The Golden Mile*, the second album by My Life Story.

As the only modern pop group (apart from Mike Flowers Pops) to employ the full-time services of a four-piece string section and three-piece brass section instead of the usual guitars and keyboards, My Life Story have evolved a sound that is grand, glamorous and not a little kitsch. Certainly, their involvement elsewhere with P.J. Proby and Marc Almond can have been no accident.

"The bedsprings twang like a pizzicato string," Jake Shillingford sings in his well-manicured tones on *Marriage Blister*, a typically upbeat number that harnesses a lyric quivering with knowing irony to the swirling sounds of a less complicated romantic pop era.

From the chirpy nonsense of *The King of Kissingdom* to the more serious point of *You Can't Uneat the Apple*, it is all very precise and mildly seductive, if rather self-consciously arch.

JOHN LEE HOOKER
Don't Look Back
(Pointblank/Virgin America 7243 8 42771 £13.99)

R.L. BURNSIDE
Mr Wizard
(Fat Possum/Epitaph 0301 £14.99)

IT IS all very well to talk about pop stars sliding into a comfortable middle age, but what are we to make of these crusty old bluesmen who are still cranking out their strange voodoo well into their pensionable years?

John Lee Hooker, 76, and R.L. Burnside, 70, are two of the last surviving blues originals. Both were born in rural Mississippi, and both migrated to the urban north in the 1940s: Hooker to Detroit, Burnside to Chicago. But, for all the similarities of background, their new albums come from opposite sides of the tracks.

In the past decade Hooker has acquired the status of a godhead. A master of his craft, he now takes the respect of his industry and the affection of his public for granted. Celebrity musicians routinely beat a path to Hooker's door, and his new album is produced for the most part by Van Morrison, who also plays a supporting role on several of the tracks.

But all this respect and musicianly bonhomie has rather blunted Hooker's edge. *Don't Look Back* begins with a look back at *Dimples*, a song Hooker first recorded in 1956. Accompanied on this one by Los Lobos, Hooker gives a sprightly account of himself without adding anything to the original. But, as the album progresses, his grip gradually relaxes to the point where he sounds as if he could be doing this in his sleep.

Long stretches of languid ad-libbing and lazy call-and-response routines with Morrison seem to conceal Hooker's rather tenuous grasp of the song structures, which is odd considering he wrote most of them himself. But a rambling version of Morrison's *The Healing Game* and a feeble trot through Jimi Hendrix's *Red House* add nothing in the way of spice or variety to what now sounds like an overly well-trodden groove.

In stark contrast, Burnside remains very much the outsider, a man who, for all his experience, has yet to enjoy more than a nodding acquaintance with fame, let alone fortune. His collaborators on *Mr Wizard* are either punk desperadoes the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion (on two tracks), or else a clattery homegrown duo comprising his grandson, Cedric Burnside, on drums and guitarist Kenny Brown, whom some call "R.L.'s only white son".

The absence of a bass guitar anywhere on the album lends an authentic, garage band frisson to the sound, but the reckless, raucous urgency of tracks such as *Alice Mae*, *Rollin' & Tumblin'* and *Georgia Women* is more to do with the supremely abandoned delivery of Burnside himself. On two unaccompanied tracks — *Over the Hill* and a version of the Rev Gary Davis/Fred McDowell standard *You Gotta Move* — Burnside howls and hollers as if his life depended on it, while inflicting all kinds of grievous bodily harm on an approximately tuned slide guitar.

While Hooker takes a well-deserved rest on his laurels, Burnside summons up the original, hellhound-driven spirit of the blues with an anarchic fervour that few performers of any generation could hope to match.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	Pop	U2 (Island)
2	(2)	Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3	(3)	Everything Must Go	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
4	(4)	Ocean Drive	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
5	(–)	Still Waters	Bee Gees (Polydor)
6	(13)	B-Sides, Seasides & Freerides	Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
7	(20)	The Very Best of	Bee Gees (Polydor)
8	(14)	Evita	Original Soundtrack (Warner Bros)
9	(6)	Dreamland	Robert Miles (Deconstruction)
10	(10)	Older	George Michael (Virgin)

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● *Figure in brackets denotes last week's position*

AEROSMITH
Nine Lives
(Columbia COL 485020 £13.99)

HAVING toyed with the idea of updating their sound, then wisely rejecting it, Aerosmith have come up with another gilt-edged collection of heart-on-sleeve, tongue-in-cheek, bad boy rock'n'roll songs, written and performed as only they know how. "My old libido has been blowing a transistor," Steven Tyler sings on the single, *Falling in Love (Is Hard on the Knees)*, a theme to which he returns on many occasions, most notably on the lubricious *Taste Of India*, where the band goes for a kind of tandooried Led Zeppelin sound.

Elsewhere, the first person singular is never far from Tyler's lyrics — "I got terminal uniqueness, I'm an egocentric man," he proclaims in *The Farm* — as the band mixes high-voltage rockers such as *Crash* with old-fashioned power ballads, including *Fallen Angels*, *Full Circle* and *Hole in my Soul*. Like a winning soft drink formula, some things are simply too good to tamper with.

Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

Over 30? Don't you think it's time you grew up?

CAITLIN MORAN

Maybe it's because I'm getting old (21, with a mortgage, and just starting to realise that cigarettes *are* bad for you), but *really*. Teenage pop bands — what's that all about? What are they doing? And why are "elderly" people (those over 30) suddenly going wobbly for it?

What about that 3T, for one? Michael Jackson's little cousins, plucked eyebrows, make-up seemingly welded on to their faces, and scary, blank, we've-had-agents-from-the-second-we-were-conceived eyes. Ask *them* a question not cleared by management four days in advance and they just emit strange clicking and buzzing sounds.

And Boyzone! Charmless goons with shiny faces, the wit of a small pebble, and dance-routines that look like five old guys continually on the verge of falling over. And the amount of cover-versions they get through: they're nothing more than a nipple-revealing Robson & Jerome.

And Spice Girls! Two-bit hoofers whose Girl Power manifesto seems to consist of exposing breasts for maximum publicity. Hardly *The Female Eunuch* with a dance-beat, is it?

And Backstreet Boys! Haven't the foggiest clue what they look like, but I'm convinced they'd come off second best in a brain-and-talent contest with a flock of hens.

Of course, there have always been manufactured pop bands. They're something management companies do in their spare time, carefully putting together projects that include the Cute One; the Vaguely Menacing One; the Serious One and the Jokey One. If you're in marketing, you'd probably explain the teenie-band phenomenon as trainer-bra music, something sweet and palatable to prepare you for the real thing — underwiring and Oasis.

But what's really disconcerting is that, over the past couple of months, 30 and 40-year-olds have been banging on about the wonder of teenie-pop like it's the distilled DNA of the Beatles. "Its wonderful, ephemeral, disposable, *Zeitgeist*-bedding brilliance!" they rave. "The youthful energy! *The sparkly costumes!* Really, there is nothing better than wonderfully mindless pop music."

Well, of course there is, as these people well know. That's why they're not down the front at Wembley Arena with banners and whistles, screaming their little hearts out. That's why they're sitting at home with a whisky (rather than an alco-pop), headphones on, trying to *work out all the lyrics to the* third REO Speedwagon album.

It's natural to feel suddenly creaky and halfway dead in your thirties, but to fight back by willingly shedding half your brain cells, and getting into music that 12-year-olds "dig", won't help a bit. Twelve-year-olds grow out of teenie-pop by the age of 15, and start trying to find out who this Marc Bolan fella that everyone goes on about was. Thirty-year-olds will still be asking each other who their favourite Spice Girl is at the election after this one.

All this am-I-missing-the-point? fear was triggered by the original Old Spice, Kylie Minogue. Throughout her halcyon days with Stock, Aitkin and Waterman, Kylie was thoroughly reviled as bimbo-pop for two-year-olds. One small fact, missed at the time, was that her name was on some of the best singles of the 1980s and early 1990s.

When, around 1994, credible pop stars such as Primal Scream, Manic Street Preachers and St Etienne admitted they fancied her *and* loved her records, the fear of God was put into a lot of elderly people. *Up until then, teenie pop had always* been uncool. Now things weren't as straightforward any more. Some teenie-pop was cool. Perhaps *all* teenie-pop was cool. Maybe teenie-pop was cool if you fancied the person singing it.

And so the point was monumentally *missed* — *teenie-pop* is cool if it's *good* — and the horror of middle-aged men and women discussing Ronan from Boyzone's new haircut was upon us. All I can say is: for pity's sake, don't do it! Being adult is wonderful! Teenage girls spend every day wanting to be grown up, so they can go in pubs, drive cars and have sex with someone who lives further away than the next estate. If all they have to look forward to is conversa*tions about boy-bands, they'll* all start chain-smoking in the hopes it will stunt their growth and arrest their development. Cough. Cough cough.

Mansun.
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JAZZ ALBUMS

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Faultlessly anchored by the lithe bass of Andy McKee, and graced with almost an embarrassment of top-class soloists, ranging from the saxophonists John Stubblefield, Ronnie Cuber and Gary Bartz and the trumpeters Randy Brecker and Philip Harper to the trombonist Frank Lacy, the band alternately powers, lopes slinkily and croons its way through a plethora of Mingus classics, skilfully arranged by Sy Oliver and MD Steve Slagle.

Rangy and dramatic, yet precise and sensitive where necessary, this is big-band jazz at its best.

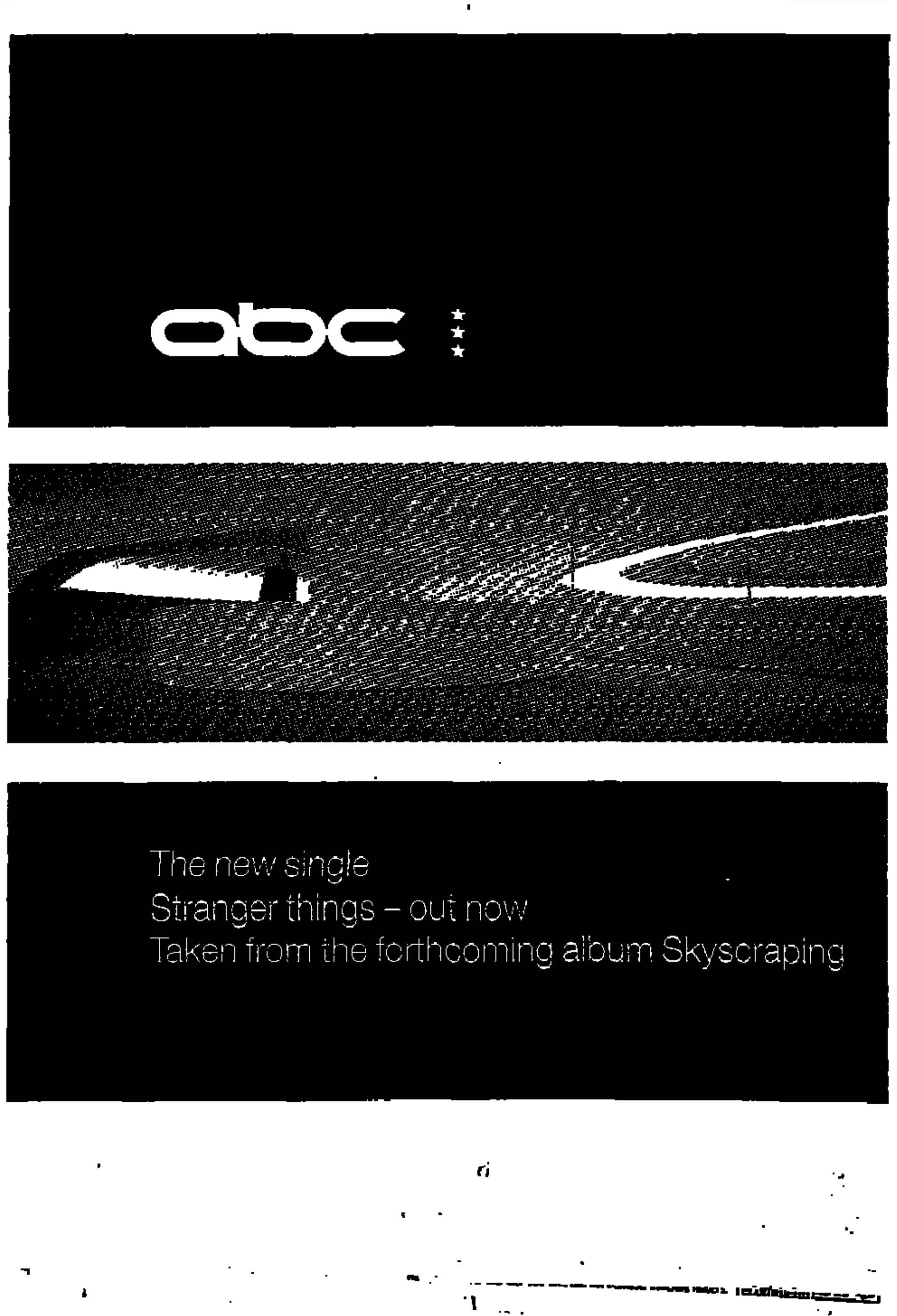
CLAIRE MARTIN
Make This City Ours
(Linn AKD 066)

THE CITY in question is New York, where award-winning UK vocalist Claire Martin recorded this, her fifth Linn album and the first involving *not only a producer*, Joel E. Siegel, but also a rhythm section and an alto player, Antonio Hart, based in the jazz capital.

Martin's repertoire, however, is much as before, with standard material from the likes of Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin interspersed with snappily satirical songs, lovers' laments and the occasional original.

Her voice has not lost its ability to combine an almost chummy intimacy with technical assurance and mature poise, ensuring that the carefully chosen songs on this consistently entertaining album are delivered with Martin's customary mix of sensitivity and brio.

CHRIS PARKER



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Full details and an application form may be obtained from:

The Secretary to the Governors, King's College School, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 4TT.
Telephone: 0181 255 5300. Fax: 0181 255 5439

The closing date for applications is 19 April 1997.

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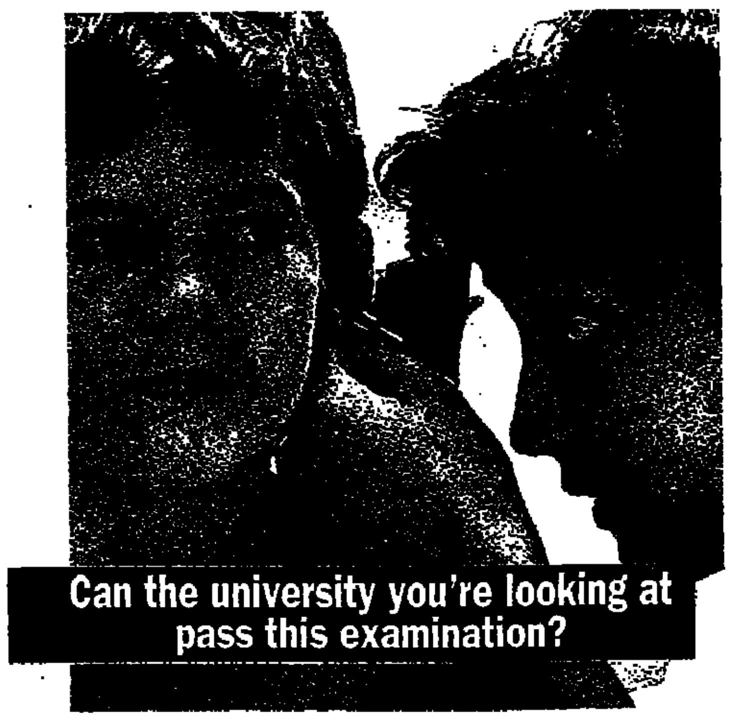
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The present pensionable stipend for a Professor is £40,124 a year.

Candidates for the Professorship should send ten copies of their applications, marked 'Confidential', together with the names of two referees, to the Secretary General of the Faculties, from whom further information regarding the Professorship is available, at the General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge CB2 1TT, so as to reach him not later than Monday 7 April 1997.

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The questions your 11-year-old will face

A guide to the tests by **John O'Leary** and **David Charter**

The test results of 11-year-olds published in this week's primary school league tables showed a marked improvement on the previous year. But there were still common faults, which contributed to 40 per cent failing to reach the benchmark expected of the age group.

This page provides an initial guide to the year's tests in English, mathematics and science that take place in May. A fuller guide will appear in paperback books sponsored by *The Times*, which will be published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office at the end of this month.

As the Key Stage Two tests assumed greater importance last year, a growing number of schools introduced revision classes. Many parents also took an active interest in their children's preparation. The proliferation of revision guides, on CD-Rom and video as well as book form, suggests that the trend will accelerate this spring.

Like the tests at seven and 14, assessment at 11 is designed to chart pupils' progress through the national curriculum. Though Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has talked of simplifying the system, this year's candidates will be assessed in terms of national curriculum levels.

As in previous years, there will be three types of test. Those taken by the vast majority of children will be pitched at Levels 3 to 5 of the curriculum, but pupils of lower ability will be given specially designed tasks and high-flyers will have the opportunity to take extension papers. Mainstream pupils are expected to reach Level 4 at the age of 11.

Whichever party wins the election, the results will not be used to select pupils for secondary schools: they come too late in the year for that. But, where any form of streaming is in operation, the results could affect grouping. Teaching unions were critical of last year's tests, but are not proposing to renew their boycotts. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has made some changes, including the introduction of a mental arithmetic test, but the format will be similar to last year's.

The results will certainly be important to primary schools because there will be league tables, whether local or national. The rankings are bound to be influential in parents' choices of school.

● Separate editions of *The Parents' Guide to the National Tests* will be published for English, mathematics and science at £5.95 each, or £14.95 for the set. They will be available from HMSO or bookshops from March 25, and can be ordered on 0171-873 9090.

TONY WHITE

The assessment is designed to chart pupils' progress through the national curriculum

Broader range of reading required

FOR ENGLISH, 11-year-olds will be tested separately on spelling and handwriting, in addition to the main tests in reading and writing. There will also be optional tests in grammar and punctuation.

After the poor showing of 1995, the 57 per cent reaching at least Level 4 came as a relief, especially as the proportion at higher levels almost doubled. However, barely more than 1,000 of the 33,000 children taking extension papers managed the top level possible at 11.

In the reading test, most did well on questions testing retrieval, but few were able to generalise or draw conclusions from a story about a boy's relationship with his brother.

Commas and quotation marks gave most problems in punctuation, and apostrophes were often used incorrectly. Many children were also confused in their use of similar words, such as "there" and "their". In the spelling test, the most common mistakes were over "stretched" and "sprawling".

On the basis of last year's tests, the SCAA suggested that children should read a wide range of texts and consider the effects of different vocabulary, as well as discussing the interpretations and implications of the writing. Children should also be taught common spelling patterns.

For the writing test, the use of dialogue should be developed and greater use of figurative language would add to the quality of writing. Children were also said to need help with the organisation of writing to avoid purely chronological narration.

● This year's English tests are on May 14 (reading, 45 minutes; spelling, ten minutes; and handwriting, five minutes) and May 15 (writing, 45 minutes). The hour-long extension paper is also on May 15.

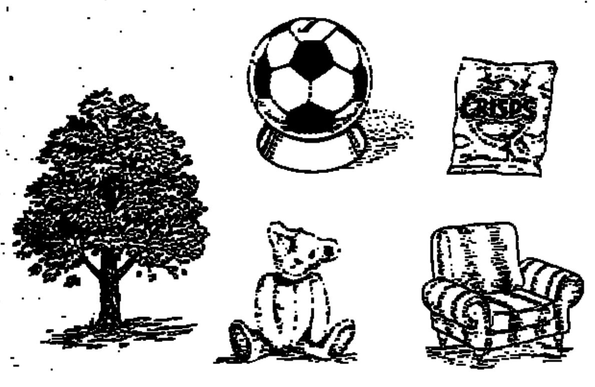
UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH

Look Who's Talking!

The story *Time Trouble* starts with a clock that talks.

Write your own short story about something that one day suddenly starts to talk.

The pictures may give you some ideas.



You should think about

- what it is that talks
- who it is talking to
- what it says
- what happens next

SPELLING

The teacher reads out a list of words that the pupils have to write down

still
moment
shook
remained
silence
visitors
notice
crept
tallest
beautiful
stretched
disturbed
sneeze
slipped
uncoiled
sprawling
pieces
echoed
replaced
heard

MATHEMATICS

Children run a 100 metres race on Sports Day.

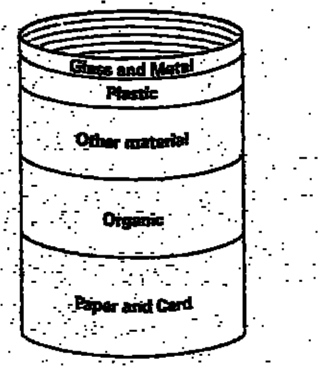
Here are their times.

Name	Time taken
Sue	16.57 secs
Jan	16.39 secs
Sam	14.83 secs
Tom	17.00 secs
Raj	16.89 secs

What is the winner's time? ✎ ______ secs

Who has the time nearest to 16 seconds? ✎ ....

This diagram shows the proportions of waste by weight a family throws away in one year.



Estimate what fraction of the waste is organic. ✎ ☐

The family throws away about 38 kilograms of plastic in a year.

Use the diagram to estimate the weight of glass and metal they throw away. ✎ ______ kg

Missing the point with decimals

RESULTS in mathematics were the lowest of the three core subjects in last summer's tests for 11-year-olds, despite a rise in pupils achieving Level 4, the target for their age.

Concerns about the results have led to the introduction this summer of an optional 20-minute mental arithmetic test, which about 80 per cent of schools have chosen to run.

The two compulsory 45-minute papers cover three of the national curriculum areas: number and shape, space and measures, and handling data.

Last summer's tests showed that many children had a weak grasp of the use of decimals and the inter-relationship between multiplication and division, as well as the relationship between percentages and simple fractions.

Difficulties also occurred in the use of correct mathematical vocabulary for geometrical shapes and measures, using measuring equipment such as protractors and in making approximations.

Answers to the data-handling questions suggested that children needed more experience of using bar charts with horizontal as well as vertical bars. This was evident in a question about long-jump distances, where even some of the most able children were stumped.

On a more positive note, children's ability to answer questions about probability improved markedly last year.

The 1996 tests included one calculator-free paper for the first time, but some children apparently wasted time in the other paper by working out sums in longhand when they could have used a calculator.

● The mathematics tests for 1997 will be set on May 12 — Maths A (45 minutes), mental arithmetic (20 minutes); May 13 — Maths B (45 minutes); and May 19 — Maths extension paper (30 minutes).

Setting a tougher standard

SCORING high marks in science became more difficult last year, as the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority toughened the marking to bring the subject into line with English and mathematics.

However, though science was the only subject to register a drop in the number of pupils reaching the standard expected at 11, the "pass rate" was still higher than for English or mathematics. The extension paper was so tough that only 120 pupils out of almost 6,000 candidates reached Level 6.

As they will this year, the papers included sections on living things, materials and physical processes, as well as an introduction to the programme of study.

Understanding and using scientific language has been an area of difficulty for many children since the tests began. Children tend to use words such as "disappear", for example, to describe water evaporating.

Barely more than half of all 11-year-olds could explain accurately what pulse rate measures last year. Official advice in preparation for this year's tests is for children to practise full descriptions and explanations in response to questions on how and why a scientific process occurs as it does.

Children also found it difficult to make precise comparisons. But questions requiring pupils to read and interpret data and graphs were answered well.

Other suggested preparation for the 1997 tests include demonstrating and discussing processes such as evaporation, dissolving and melting, and an exploration of the magnetic properties of a range of metals.

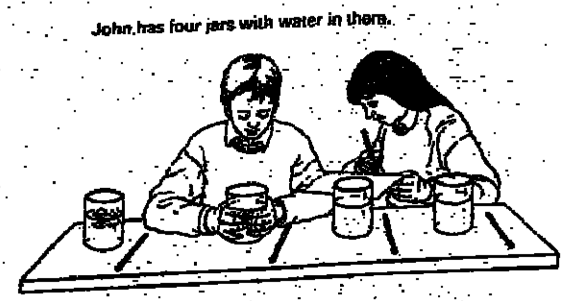
For physics, children should be taught the conventions for drawing electrical circuit diagrams, and they should discuss their ideas about forces and motion. The effects of rotation and spinning of the Earth need to be understood.

● Science tests will take place on May 13 and May 16 (both 35 minutes). The hour-long extension paper will be on May 19.

SCIENCE: THE PROBLEM OF LANGUAGE

Temperature

John has four jars with water in them.



He measures the temperature of the water in each jar using a thermometer. These are the four readings he takes in °C.

0° 15° 40° 60°

Fill in the table by putting these temperatures in the correct places.

Jar with:	Temperature of water, °C
cool water	
water and ice	
hot water	
warm water	

(b) The temperature of the classroom is always 18°C

What will happen to the ice floating in the water?

✎ ______________________

____

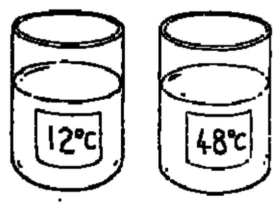
(c) John puts out two new jars of water

He writes the temperatures on the jars

Next morning, the temperatures of the water in the jars have changed.

The room temperature is still 18°C

Write in the boxes the temperatures of the water the next morning.



✎ ___°C ___°C

EDUCATION

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John O'Leary looks at the growing competition from across the Channel for the British institutions that offer MBAs

Continental schools win their share of business

British business schools have never had things entirely their own way in recruiting MBA students. The top schools in America have always taken their share of high-flyers, particularly in the executive market. Until recently, however, few continental business schools would have been seen as serious competition. The language barrier and the sheer inexperience of many institutions on the other side of the Channel ruled them out for most British students.

All that is changing as business becomes increasingly international. The development of the European single market has accelerated a trend that had already developed, as graduates widen their employment horizons.

The opportunity to hone language skills and pick up different business styles at the same time as acquiring a marketable qualification is particularly appealing to young executives who see their career abroad. The growing status of a number of continental schools has made them a realistic proposition for the ambitious.

More than a dozen continental schools featured in the *MBA Career Guide's* last listing of employers' favoured schools, and 15 now have accreditation from the London-based Association of MBAs. They include schools in France, Italy, Spain and The Netherlands.

Dr Robert Owen, the AMBA's accreditation manager, says: "Part of the motivation for most schools that join our association is to be able to market their programmes in the UK. They want to become more international, both in terms of staff and students, and some are certainly succeeding."

The association's loans scheme illustrates the success particularly of the French schools. There has been a 20 per cent growth over the past three years in applications to support students on courses in France.

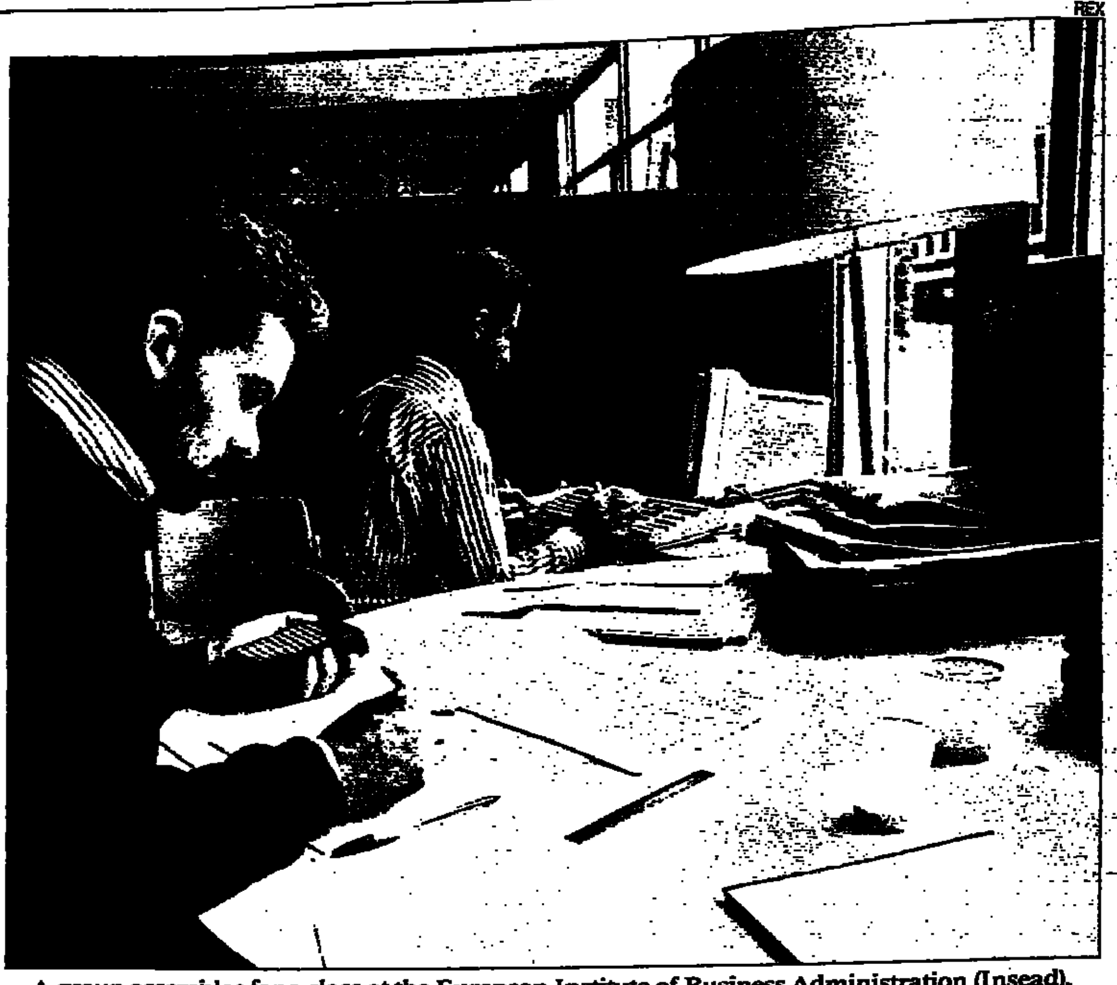
The European Institute of Business Administration (Insead), at Fontainebleau, is the biggest attraction, but Groupe ESC Lyon also markets its courses strongly. Insead, which has no government grants and is not associated with a university, is one of the few genuinely international business schools. Fourteen per cent of last year's MBA students and 15 per cent of those on executive programmes came from Britain.

The institute is planning to increase the size of its MBA programme by 100 students a year, starting this September, and is taking on extra staff to this end. Already 6 per cent of the academic staff is British and more than 20 other nationalities are represented.

Other continental schools featuring regularly in business school rankings include the SDA Bocconi, in Milan, the International Institute for Management Development, in Lausanne, the IESE at the University of Navarra, in Spain, and the Rotterdam School of Management. All four featured in *Time* magazine's top ten European business schools last September.

Nunzio Quacquarelli, the European editor of the *MBA Career Guide*, says: "The MBA is recruiting well throughout Europe. The number of British students taking programmes on the Continent has certainly increased in recent years, but so has the whole market. The American schools, for example, are also maintaining their share."

A number of British schools have recognised the attraction of continental study and have responded by establishing links with business schools and universities elsewhere in Europe. Bradford University, for example, has joint courses, with business schools in Germany, The Netherlands, France and Spain. Cranfield School of Management runs joint projects and shares staff time with Groupe ESC Lyon.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A group assembles for a class at the European Institute of Business Administration (Insead), at Fontainebleau in France, now one of the leading continental attractions for students

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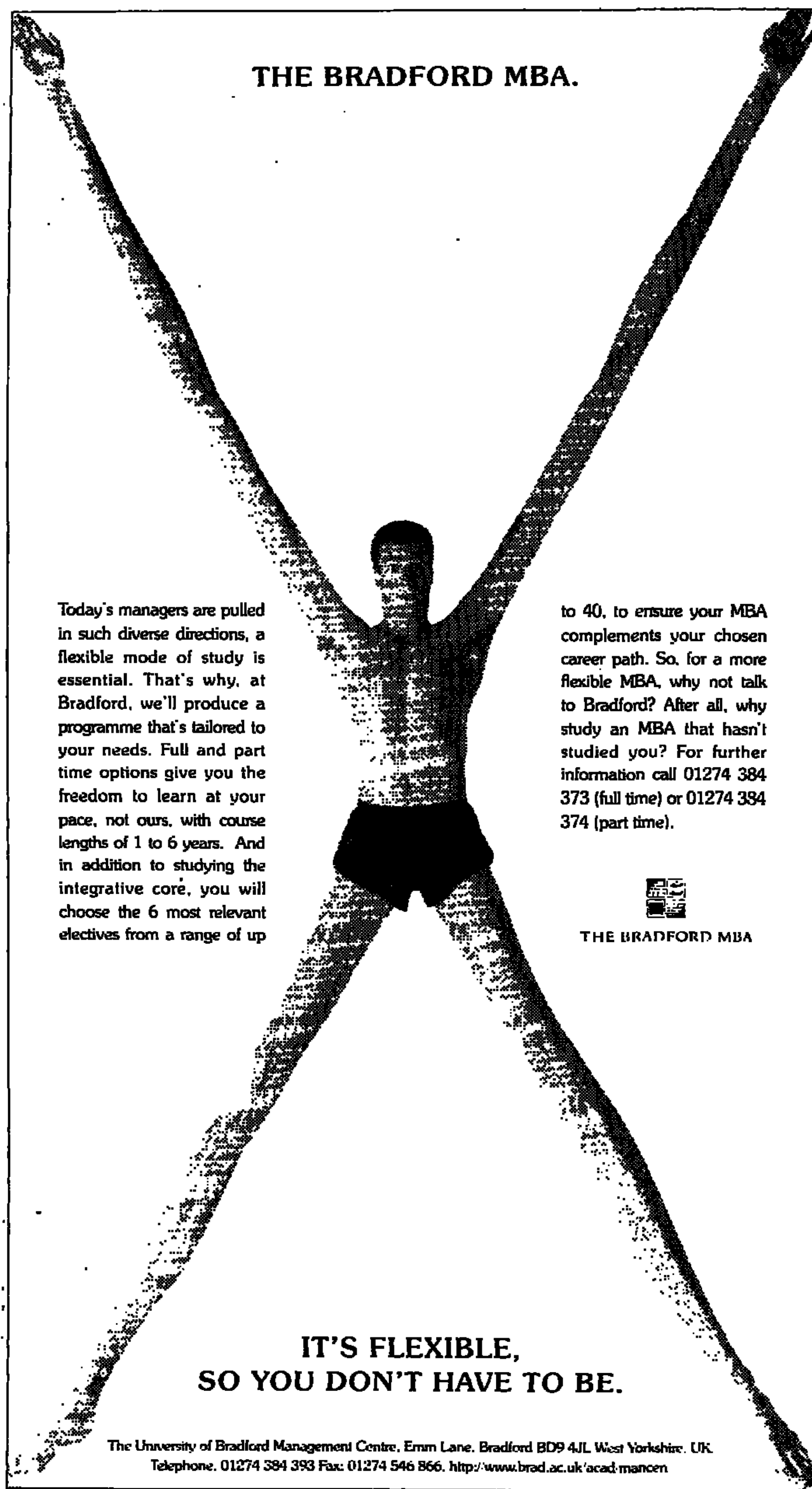

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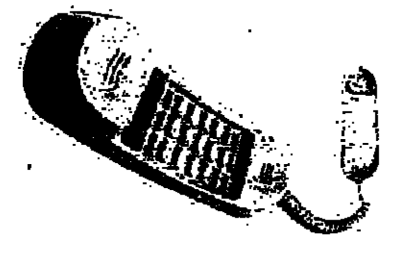

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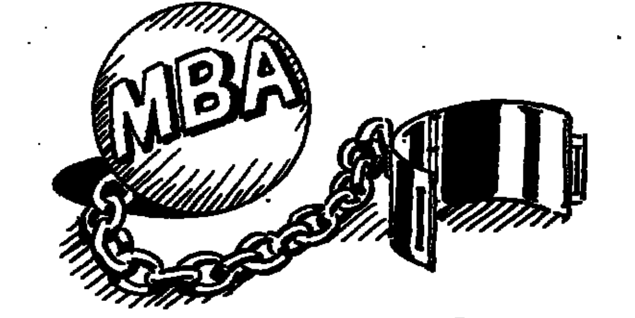

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FOOTBALL: ARSENAL FACE REMAINDER OF SEASON WITHOUT LEADING LIGHT

Merson sidelined by operation

By Russell Kempson and Peter Ball

Merson has been a potent force for Arsenal during their pursuit of the Premiership title this season

PAUL MERSON, the Arsenal midfield player, will miss most of the remainder of the FA Carling Premiership campaign after undergoing a hernia operation yesterday. He will also be unavailable for the England international against Mexico at Wembley on March 29.

Merson, 28, has proved one of Arsenal's most consistent players this season and has regained his place in the England squad. He played for 14 minutes, as a substitute, in the 1-0 World Cup qualifying match defeat by Italy last month. However, his form has dipped as the hernia problem has gradually worsened.

He missed Arsenal's 2-0 victory against Everton at Goodison Park 13 days ago — after a continuous run in the side of almost two years — and squandered several chances in the 2-0 defeat of Nottingham Forest at Highbury on Saturday.

It is likely that Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, will introduce the precocious talents of Nicolas Anelka, the French forward, alongside Dennis Bergkamp for the Premiership game against Southampton at The Dell tomorrow. Ian Wright, Bergkamp's usual partner, will be missing because of suspension, as will Lee Dixon, but Ray Parlour returns after a two-match ban.

Arsenal yesterday scotched reports that Graeme Le Saux, the England and Blackburn Rovers defender, would be joining the club in a £4 million deal.

On Wednesday Le Saux spoke with several Arsenal players at a country hotel in Hertfordshire that has been used by the club since their nearby training ground was damaged by fire. It is believed the meeting was coincidental, with Le Saux visiting only to make arrangements for his forthcoming wedding.

Ryan Giggs and Neville Southall have been recalled to the Wales squad for the group seven World Cup qualifying tie against Belgium at the National Stadium on March 29. Anything less than victory is likely to eliminate Wales from the World Cup finals in France next year. Giggs and Southall missed the international match against Ireland in Cardiff last month, which was drawn 0-0, Giggs because of injury and Southall for "domestic reasons".

Middlesbrough will field one of the most exotic teams to grace a Wembley final when they send out two Italians, two Brazilians, an Australian and a Dane to face Leicester City in the Coca-Cola Cup final next month. The Dane, Mikkel Beck, deflated some of his side's euphoria after the aggregate semi-final win over Stockport County on Wednesday night by reminding his colleagues that there was more work to be done.

"I came here to help make history, because I knew they had never won anything, and this is the first step, the first big final, he said. "But this is not enough for us. We want to win this final."

WALES SQUAD: N Southall (Everton), M Crossley (Nottingham Forest), A Marriott (Wrexham), P Jones (Stockport County), M Bowen (West Ham United), S Jenkins (Huddersfield Town), R Page (Watford), K Ready (Queens Park Rangers), K Symons (Manchester City), B Horne (Birmingham City), V Jones (Wimbledon), A Williams (Wolverhampton Wanderers), M Pembridge (Sheffield Wednesday), J Robinson (Charlton Athletic), R Savage (Crewe Alexandra), C Hughes (Luton Town), G Speed (Everton), R Giggs (Manchester United), J Hartson (West Ham United), N Blake (Bolton Wanderers), A Legg (Birmingham City), M Hughes (Chelsea), D Saunders (Nottingham Forest), M Browning (Huddersfield Town), G Taylor (Sheffield United), A Neilson (Southampton), C Blackmore (Middlesbrough), D Phillips (Nottingham Forest), I Roberts (Wolverhampton Wanderers).

North Ferriby bounce back

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

NORTH Ferriby United have painful memories of the FA Vase semi-finals of 1989. They thought they had a place at Wembley in their grasp when they won the first leg away at Tamworth 2-1, only to lose the second at home 3-1 to the eventual winners.

Tomorrow they have the chance to make amends when they travel to play Guisborough Town, of the Federation Brewery Northern League, in the first instalment of their semi-final this year.

"I think the ghost has been put to bed by reaching the semi-finals," Tim Hotte, the North Ferriby manager, said. "We just want to go a stage further and ensure a Northern Counties East League side keeps the Vase after Brigg Town last season."

Hotte's hopes were dealt a blow this week with the loss of Neil Allison, 23, his centre half. Allison, formerly down the road at Hull City, has been recruited by John Duncan at Chesterfield. Tickets for their FA Cup semi-final are understood to have been part of the deal.

In attack, though, North Ferriby are at full strength, boasting Andy "Flopper" Flounders, a Vase winner with Brigg, Darren France and Mark Tennison, a member of the Guiseley side that won the Vase in 1992.

It has meant that Hotte has taken a back seat as a player this season. Hotte, 33, made 37 League appearances in a 13-year career on the fringes of the professional game, taking in three Wembley finals as an Arsenal apprentice, at Huddersfield Town and, after a six-month spell at North Ferriby, three years at Hull City.

"I played as a right wing and was then switched to striker at Huddersfield," he said. "I am only 5ft 4in, so I was always being called 'the diminutive striker'. In fact, as I am quite well built, they used to call me the 'Mini Hulk'."

He discovered that the role of player-manager in non-League football is nigh impossible after his first full season last year, despite the dedicated supporting efforts of Bobby Franks, his assistant. "I work as a glazing salesman," he said. "These days you have to be self-employed to cope as a non-League manager. It takes up so much time: four days to every three at work."

A holder of an FA coaching badge, Hotte is happy to put into practice the lessons learnt from his career. "I picked up a lot down the years from Terry Neill, Mick Buxton, Bobby Saxton — when I was on loan at York — and Brian Horton at Hull," he said.

His contacts have helped him to recruit widely and turn a village side — "there are only 700 or 800 people here," he said — into one on the threshold of the UniBond League and Wembley.

RACING

Chance maps long route to short cut

ANDREW LONGMORE

At Cheltenham

So many images all crowding in at once. Noel Chance and his family flanking the Queen Mother and smiling for the camera on the balcony where moments before he had grasped his shining trophy. Chance at the back beneath his trilby, wearing his battered old racing coat with the velvet collar that has seen more bad days than good and patting the tall man on his right and receiving a hearty thump of regard back. Chance looking bemused and blinking at all the well-wishers as if unable to cope with the sudden glare of sunlight. Light at the end of the tunnel, he said of his Gold Cup victory. Makes a change from express trains.

Chance, the typical small-time Irish trainer, and Michael Worcester, a tall Englishman with a guardsman's stance, meeting for the first time on the Curragh. An agreement between them emerging unspoken from a mutual liking, leading all the way to a new life in Lambourn and, courtesy of a "great big orange thing with white spots" called Mr Mulligan, the longest recorded short cut to Cheltenham glory. And both, at times during a wretched season, beginning to wonder whether they have done the right thing and discussing it every Tuesday morning while going a shade greyer beneath their trilbies.

Chance in one of his favourite haunts, the George on the corner in Lambourn, munching a sandwich and musing on his former life in Ireland. "Too hard," he says. "You could lay out a horse for a race, look at the formbook and, whichever way you looked at it, know you couldn't win it." But making enough of the scraps to keep the wolves from the door and all the time learning, ready for the day a really decent horse broke the cycle.

Then seeing this ungainly chestnut with big feet and a bigger heart and an untutored athleticism, fresh out of the yard of Kim Bailey, where one of his regular riders dismissed his clumsiness as incurable. And Chance looking at the white legs and the long white blaze and thinking "what on earth have we here?" and watching the long, ground-swallowing lollop on the undulating gallops above Lambourn where training, he said, was so much easier than on the flat plains of the Curragh. And feeling his heart quicken at the prospect, though Mr Mulligan is as lazy as an old labrador.

And, last year, catching a glimmer of the fame to come when Mr Mulligan emerged to thrash some outstanding jumping talent at Ascot and put himself forward as the favourite for the Sun Alliance, in which Gold Cup apprentices are schooled. Then, a year ago, watching his pride and joy clatter the first, fight his way back to the front only to find the tank empty halfway up the hill, his disappointment at defeat tempered by the relief that his injury-prone charge had returned home safe and sound to fight another day.

Chance, as low as anyone could be, when the same carelessness at the last fence cost him a precious second place in the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. And the lost prize of £24,000 being nothing compared to the back injury which threatened to end a season already stuttering to a halt. And suddenly the English game did not look as easy as it did in the bright spring of 19[illegible] when he first entered [illegible] compact little stables on the road to Upper Lambourn.

And yesterday, wondering whether the injury had been cured and hoping beyond hope that it had, despite a lacklustre gallop at Newbury when he had crossed his fingers like his mother taught him and lied to the press, saying how Mr Mulligan always worked like that while himself feeling awful inside.

Then the Gold Cup itself, a 6½-minute distillation of a lifetime, a draining mixture of hope and disbelief. And the shaft of sunlight glowing brighter with every lumbering stride as Mr Mulligan galloped relentlessly on under Tony McCoy, shedding his challengers one by one.

And walking slowly into the parade ring, waiting for the winner almost unrecognised, trying to stay calm amid the storm of congratulation, while his boss, who had watched the race on the television screen by the Tote offices, shed his stiff upper lip and cried fit to burst beneath his glasses and Kim Bailey, who could have trained the winner, hugged the man who did. And repeating over and over to microphones: "It's great, it's great" because it was and because, for once, he could find nothing else to say.

Chance: move from Ireland rewarded by Gold Cup glory

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

In the Refreshers on slams over the last few weeks I have given examples of how you should upgrade distributional hands with a good fit. But beware of the converse: don't overbid hands with lots of points but little distribution.

How do you think the following two hands should be bid?

Love All **Dealer West**

W		E
♠K65	N	♠AJ7
♥QJ1054	W E	♥AK82
♦A6	S	♦Q105
♣Q72		♣A83

In a recent local team-of-eight league match one team lost a lot of points when both its pairs bid these two hands to slam. In effect East drove to slam after West's One Heart opening.

The East hand is awkward to bid using standard methods. But the first point to appreciate is that East cannot guarantee a slam opposite a minimum One Heart opening. If you write down some minimum hands you will see that is so, particularly when West has a 5-3-3-2 shape.

Many tournament players play that a response of Two No-trumps to the One Heart opening shows a balanced game-forcing hand. After that East can sign off in Four Hearts when West shows no interest.

Traditional Acol players would start with Three Clubs, and then support hearts. However, nowadays many players have the understanding that a jump shift always guarantees a good suit, with or without support for the opener's suit.

If neither Two No-trumps nor Three Clubs is available in the sense used above, East has no real alternative but to start with Two Clubs. At least that will smoke out whether West has any extra values. Now after West rebids Two Hearts East is worth one more effort. After all, West could still hold

♠KQx ♥QJxxxx ♦KJx ♣x

Best is to jump to Three Spades. As Two Spades would be forcing, Three Spades is not needed as a natural bid; instead it should be understood as a cue-bid agreeing hearts. West has nothing to be ashamed of, and bids Four Diamonds, to show a diamond control. East should do no more — he has shown a powerful hand in support of hearts and although he may have a little more in high cards than he might have, that only makes up for his lack of distribution. East signs off in Four Hearts and West passes.

Four Hearts is not laydown. After a trump lead, best is to draw trumps ending in the East hand and try a club to the queen. If it loses and North returns a club, rise with the ace and play a third club. If South wins you are laydown; if North wins and plays a spade, best is to win with the king and play ace and another diamond. If that doesn't set up a diamond trick, your last chance is the spade finesse.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Political pawns

With the election approaching, I continue my series on politicians who play chess. In the game today Michael Stern MP is overwhelmed by Kasparov's massed passed pawns on the queen's flank.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Michael Stern MP

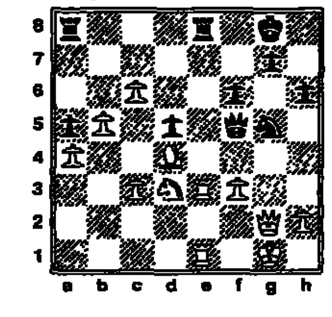
House of Commons 1989

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	e6
4	0-0	d5
5	exd5	exd5
6	d4	Nf6
7	Ne5	Bd7
8	Bxc6	bxc6
9	Re1	Be7
10	dxc5	0-0
11	Be3	Qa5
12	Nd2	Be6
13	Nb3	Qb5
14	a4	Qb4
15	Nxc6	Qb7
16	Nxe7+	Qxe7
17	Bd4	Rfc8
18	Nc1	Ne4
19	Nd3	a5
20	f3	Ng5
21	Qd2	h6
22	c3	Qd7
23	Ne5	Qb7
24	b4	f6
25	Nd3	Qd7
26	b5	Bh3
27	c6	Qf5
28	Re3	Bxg2
29	Qxg2	Re8
30	Rae1	Black resigns

Michael Stern writes: "This game against Garry Kasparov was played in May 1989 in the Jubilee Room of the House of Commons as one of the thirty simultaneous games played by the world champion. Like others, I was undoubtedly over-awed by the occasion but it will be recollected that it was this simultaneous display which led to the formation of the all-party chess group and the re-establishment of the regular Lords v Commons chess match."

Diagram of final position



Last chance

On Saturday March 22, I will take on all-comers in a simultaneous to take place in the boardroom of St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. The goal is to raise funds for the St George's Hospital Hold My Hand appeal which aims to raise £1 million for their Children's Intensive Care Unit. Details and entry forms are available from Lucy de Ville, The Appeal Office, St George's Hospital (tel: 0181-725 5096). There are only ten places left, so this may be your last chance to apply.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ALOPECIA
a. Fear of foxes
b. Baldness
c. Blue/yellow colour blindness

GLASSITES
a. Frozen glass drippings
b. Skaters
c. Sectarians

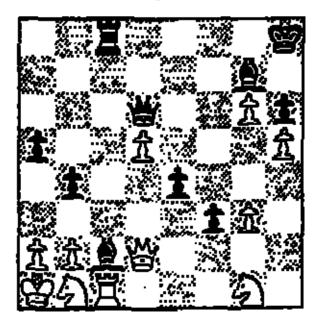
BANDOLINE
a. A bass mandoline
b. A cartridge belt
c. Hair grease

SUPEREROGATION
a. Excess
b. Rogation Sunday Advent
c. Cross-examination

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Gerber — Ye, Geneva 1997. Black has attained a superb attacking position. If you compare the relative activity of the black bishops and the white knights it is not surprising that Black has a quick kill. Can you see it?

Solution on page 46

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BIRMINGHAM: Yonex All-England championships: Men's singles: First round: M Constable (Eng) bt M Korshouk (Bela) 15-5, 15-4; Luo Yigang (China) bt T Stuer-Laundsen (Den) 15-11 15-11. Second round: P Hoyer Larsen (Den) bt Xie Yangchun (China) 15-2, 15-8; Pang Chen (Malaysia) bt Hwang Sun-Ho (S Kor) 15-1, 8-15, 15-6; B Santosa (Indo) bt T Sogaard (Den) 15-5, 15-12, M Lundgaard Hansen (Den) bt Chen Gang (China) 11-15, 15-11 17-15, P Rasmussen (Den) bt J Supriato (Indo) 15-10, 15-3; T Johansson (Swe) bt C Haughton (Eng) 15-8, 15-2, Ong Ewe Hock (Malaysia) bt O Pongratz (Ger) 15-5, 15-2; Dong Jiong (China) bt K Jonassen (Den) 15-9, 15-1, Lin Liwen (China) bt Yong Hock Kin (Malaysia) 15-12, 15-10; I Wijaya (Indo) bt K Odum (Den) 15-5, 15-6; Salim (Indo) bt A Boesen (Den) 16-18, 15-12, 18-17; Sun Jun (China) bt P Knowles (Eng) 15-9, 15-2, P Gopi Chand (India) bt V Druzhchenko (Russ) 8-15, 15-11, 18-14; Luo Yigang (China) bt J Olsson (Den) 15-8, 15-3, H Arbi (Indo) bt Constable 10-15, 15-10, 15-9; Rashid Sidek (Malaysia) bt I Sydie (Can) 15-10, 15-11. Women's singles: First round: Lee Joo-Hyun (S Kor) bt M Pedersen (Den) 11-9, 11-3. Second round: M Audina (Indo) bt H Mizui (Japan) 11-5, 11-1; Dai Yun (China) bt Choi Ma-Ree (S Kor) 11-1, 12-10; Zhang Ning (China) bt Lee Soon-Deuk (S Kor) 11-7, 11-1, M Andrievskaya (Swe) bt P Plungwech (Thai) 12-10, 11-4, Ye Zhaoying (China) bt A Sondergaard (Den) 11-1, 11-0, K Yonekura (Japan) bt J Muggeridge (Eng) 11-7, 11-4, Kim Ji-Hyun (S Kor) bt Y Mizui (Japan) 11-5, 11-7, Yao Yan (China) bt M Rasmussen (Den) 11-0, 11-1; Ra Kyung-Min (S Kor) bt M Sorensen (Den) 11-6, 11-6; Wang Chen (China) bt C Nakayama (Japan) 12-9, 11-1; Han Jingna (China) bt K Morgan (Wales) 11-4, 11-7, C Martin (Den) bt M Borg (Swe) 11-6, 11-5, Park Jin-Hyun (S Kor) bt Jun Hua-Ching (Taiwan) 11-2, 11-1, S Susanti (Indo) bt E Chaffin (Eng) 11-1, 11-1, Loe bt T Ide (Japan) 12-10, 8-11, 12-9; Gong Zhichao (China) bt V Tchemiavskaia (Bela) 11-5, 11-2

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 92 Atlanta 82; Utah 117 New Jersey 102; Chicago 108 Philadelphia 104; Washington 104 Vancouver 82; Orlando 96 Houston 95; LA Lakers 109 Golden State 101

BOWLS

BALLYMONEY: Home international indoor championships: England bt Ireland 126-102 (England skips first). A Thompson bt J Baker 18-11; G R Smith bt D Corkill 21-16; A Allcock bt R McCune 25-23; D Ward bt N Graham 24-17, G Harlow drew with S Allen 18-18; G A Smith bt S Adamson 20-17).

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four). Sydney: Tasmania 370-4 (J Cox 143, M J DiVenuto 65, R T Ponting 64) v New South Wales. Brisbane: Queensland 277; South Australia 26-3. Melbourne: Victoria 205-9 (S Craig 90 not out) v Western Australia

FOOTBALL

Late results on Wednesday
COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Middlesbrough 0 Stockport County 1. (Middlesbrough win 2-1 on agg).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds United 0 Southampton 0; Sheffield Wednesday 2 Sunderland 1; West Ham United 3 Chelsea 2
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Queens Park Rangers 0 Reading 2. Second division: Wrexham 2 Luton Town 1
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Rangers 0 Dundee United 2. Second division: Stranraer 0 Hamilton Academical 1
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Baldock Town 0 Gravesend and Northfleet 5, Newport AFC 3 Ashford Town 0. Midland division: Solihull Boro 1 Stourbridge 3. Southern division: Dartford 1 Buckingham Town 0, St Leonards 4 Havant Town 2
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow Borough 3 Heybridge 3
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Accrington Stanley 1 Gainsborough Trinity 0. Unifilla first division Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Ashton United 2 Harrogate Town 1
PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby County 1 Blackburn Rovers 1, Liverpool 0 Bolton Wanderers 2. First division: Aston Villa 3 Huddersfield Town 2; Blackpool 0 Notts County 2, Preston North End 3 Leicester City 0; West Bromwich Albion 0 Wolverhampton Wanderers 1. Second division: Bradford City 3 Hull City 1, Burnley 4 Carlisle United 2. Third division: Bury 0 Darlington 0, Lincoln City 1 Scunthorpe United 3; Rochdale 3 Doncaster Rovers 0, Scarborough 2 Walsall 1
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 5 Chelsea 0, Bristol Rovers 1 Cardiff City 0; Oxford United 5 Arsenal 0; Portsmouth 1 Millwall 0
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 6 West Auckland 0, Shildon 4 Consett 3; Durham City 1 Seaham Red Star 1.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Darwen 2 Rossendale United 3; Clitheroe 0 Mossley 0
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers United 0 Stansted 3.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton Town 3 Bridport 0
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Stafford Town 1 Wolverhampton Casuals 1.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta 3 London Colney 0.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby United 2 Selby Town 1
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: East Cowes Vics 4 Petersfield Town 2.
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Mirrlees Blackstone 0 Boston 3
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle 2 Nairn County 1, Clachnacuddin 2 Huntly 1, Forres Mechanics 2 Fort William 1
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Fairford Town 0 North Leigh 1, Kintbury Rangers 0 Abingdon United 2; Lambourn Sports 2 Tuffley Rovers 2
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Cup: Quarter-final, first leg: Woodford Town 3 Barkingside 2
SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Quarter-final: Devon 2 Bedfordshire 1. English Girls Under-16 Vimto Trophy: Quarter-final: Thornden 2 Archbishop Grimshaw 5
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Czech Republic 2 Poland 1 (in Ostrava), Israel 0 Sweden 1 (in Tel Aviv)
GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Dortmund 3 Hansa Rostock 0; Fortuna Düsseldorf 2 SC Freiburg 1; Munich 1860 3 Bayer Leverkusen 0.
DUTCH CUP: Quarter-finals: AZ 67 Alkmaar 0 Willem II Tilburg 2, Helmond Sport (II) 2 Vitesse Arnhem 1. SC Heerenveen 2 Feyenoord 1
SPANISH CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: Espanol 1 Las Palmas 1 (1-1 on aggregate, Las Palmas win on away goal), Barcelona 5 Atlético Madrid 4 (Barcelona win 7-6 on aggregate)

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Keighley 8 Hull 18, Whitehaven 13 Featherstone 4
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIVERSITY MATCH: Cambridge 26 Oxford 22 (at Richmond RUFC)

RUGBY UNION

HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Worcester and Herefordshire 52 Greater Birmingham 12

SKIING

VAIL, Colorado: Men's World Cup downhill: 1, F Strobl (Austria) 1:38.29; 2, K Ghedina (It) 1:38.66; 3, H Trinkl (Austria) 1:38.68. Overall final downhill standings: 1, L Alphand (Fr) 779pts; 2, Ghedina 700; 3, F Strobl 571. Overall World Cup standings: 1, Alphand 1,101pts; 2, K A Aamodt (Nor) 979; 3, Ghedina 930

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Thailand Open: Second round: J Parrott (Eng) bt A Robidoux (Can) 5-1; P Ebdon (Eng) bt D Harold (Eng) 5-1, R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt S Davis (Eng) 5-2; N Bond (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai) 5-4. Quarter-finals: Ebdon bt Parrott 5-0; O'Sullivan bt S Lee (Eng) 5-3

SQUASH

LINZ: Renault Austrian Open Championship: First round: P Gregory (Gr) bt D Sabitzer (Austria) 11-15, 15-5, 15-5, 15-8; G Ryding (Can) bt B Martin (Aus) 12-15, 15-8, 15-13, 15-5, J Bonetat (Fr) bt D Meddings (Eng) 15-8, 16-17, 15-7, 15-11; D Jenson (Aus) bt D Ryan (Ire) 15-10, 3-15, 15-6, 15-6; C Rowland (Aus) bt J Knepp (Aus) 11-15, 15-11, 15-11, 5-15, 15-9; Jansher Khan (Pak) bt A Gough (Wales) 15-11, 15-10, 15-5, R Eyles (Aus) bt M Heath (Scot) 13-15, 15-14, 12-11 ret; Zarak Jahan (Pak) bt M Cairns (Eng) 17-18, 15-10, 8-15, 15-10. Women, first round: N Tippett (Aus) bt E Petersen (Den) 6-9, 9-3, 9-5, 9-3; J Hickey (Aus) bt E Pierce (US) 4-9, 9-5, 10-9, 9-5, N Grainger (SA) bt S Bartel (Ger) 2-9, 9-2, 9-0, 6-9, 9-1; S Brind (Eng) bt A Naude (SA) 9-5, 9-4, 9-0; K Major (Aus) bt P Pancis (Austria) 9-7, 9-2, 9-2; A Hoops (Aus) bt D Springall (Eng) 1-9, 9-1, 9-2, 9-2; E Major (Aus) bt T Beresford (It) 9-5, 9-7, 9-3; M Jans (Can) bt J Wahlberg (Swe) 9-0, 9-0, 9-5

TENNIS

INDIAN WELLS, California: Men's tournament: Second round: B Ulihrach (Cz) bt P Sampras (US) 7-6, 7-5; M Rosset (Switz) bt H Dreekman (Ger) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6; B Black (Zim) bt A O'Brien (US) 3-6, 6-1, 7-6; F Clavet (Sp) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6; J Stark (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 7-5, 6-3; C Woodruff (US) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 6-4, 6-4, A Berasategui (Sp) bt N Kulti (Swe) 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, C Pioline (Fr) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; S Dosedel (Cz) bt A Corretja (Sp) 6-4, 4-1 ret, C Moya (Sp) bt J Novak (Cz) 6-4, 6-2; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt J Tarango (US) 6-4, 6-2; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 7-6, 7-6

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
Third division
Cardiff v Doncaster
Colchester v Mansfield (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Radcliffe v Great Harwood
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale v Cwmbran.
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Shamrock v Home Farm (7.45).
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second division: Bristol Rovers v Crystal Palace (11.0).
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: John O'Hara League Cup: Semi-final: Hassocks v Wick.

RUGBY UNION

A international
France v Scotland
(at Rodez, 6.30)

Under-21 international
France v Scotland
(at Ales, 6.0)

STUDENT INTERNATIONAL: Welsh Universities v English Universities (at Cyncoed, Cardiff, 2.30)
CLUB MATCHES: Aberavon v Bristol (7.0), Bedford v Gloucester (7.30), Boroughmuir v Stewart's Melville FP (7.30), Cross Keys v Newport (7.0), Hawick v Peebles (7.15); Kelso v Watsonians (7.15); Moseley v Northampton (7.30); Musselburgh v Biggar (7.15), Nottingham v Leicester (7.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Bradford v Warrington (7.30)

First division
Dewsbury v Hull KR (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Yonex All England Open championships (NIA, Birmingham).
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League, Manchester v Newcastle (7.30)
BOXING: British light-middleweight championship: Ryan Rhodes (Sheffield holder) v Del Bryan (Nottingham) (at Reading). University match: Oxford v Cambridge (Guild Hall, Cambridge, 7.30)
BOWLS: Men's home international championships (at Ballymoney)
HOCKEY: Home nations youth tournament: Under-16: Scotland v Ireland (10.0), England v Wales (12.0). Under-18: England v Wales (2.0), Ireland v Scotland (4.0) (all at Milton Keynes)
MOTOR RALLYING: Welsh Rally
SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (at Cardiff)
TABLE TENNIS: English championships (at Brighton).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	0	65	fair	varied	slush	cloud	4	6/3
(Best skiing above 1,650 metres, snow forecast for weekend)								
Obergurgl	25	150	good	varied	slush	fine	2	8/3
(Good skiing on most pistes: some low level slush)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	90	240	slushy	heavy	slush	sun	1	27/2
(Warm weather continues, snow best before 1pm)								
Flaine	60	200	fair	spring	fair	sun	2	27/2
(Plenty of good spring skiing, snow forecast)								
La Plagne	125	205	fair	spring	slushy	sun	3	27/2
(Pistes being well maintained; good skiing available)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	80	330	good	varied	slushy	sun	8	27/2
(Still generally good spring skiing)								
Geilo	55	60	good	varied	slushy	wind	0	3/3
(High winds limiting skiing: snow mostly OK)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	5	140	fair	spring	worn	sun	10	27/2
(Best skiing before noon, spring snow off-piste)								
Wengen	5	80	fair	varied	closed	cloud	9	6/3
(Snowcover OK above 1,700 metres: pistes well maintained)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

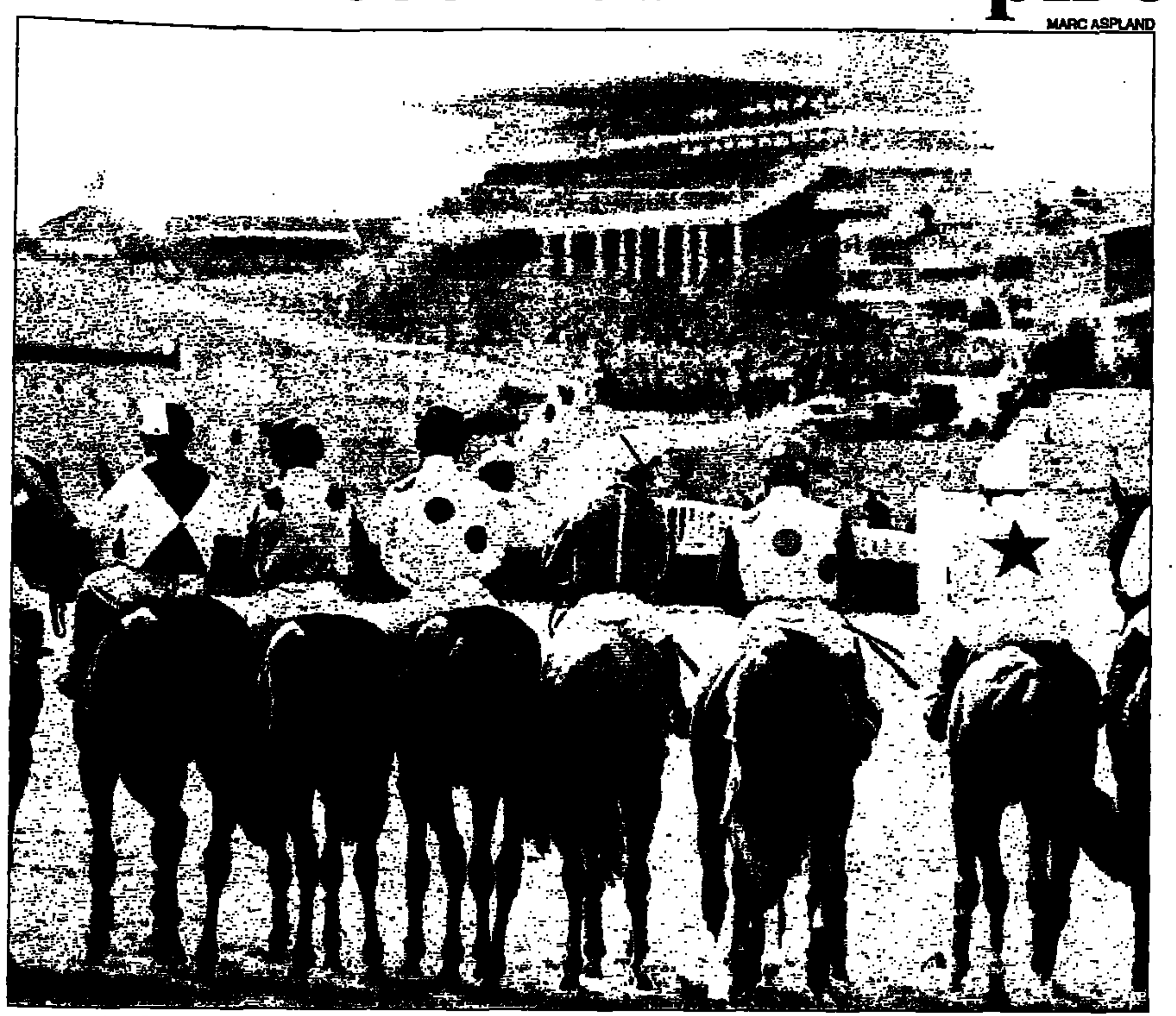
هدية من الاهرام

RACING: IRISH BROADCASTER SWITCHES ROLES TO CLAIM CELEBRATED FESTIVAL VICTORY

Walsh holds court as Triumph echoes

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

MARC ASPLAND



Perfect formation as the runners line up for the start of the Triumph Hurdle, won by Commanche Court

ANY television broadcasting outfit needs a character whose enthusiasm can carry the show. In this respect Ted Walsh is to Irish racing what Murray Walker has been to motor racing: his cameos on Channel 4 have been a treat for armchair viewers and yesterday, in another of his roles, he bewitched racegoers at Cheltenham by saddling Commanche Court to win the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle.

Walsh may have scaled great heights since he quit the saddle but he has never lost touch with the public. He strikes a chord with them and they repaid in kind yesterday by according him a rapturous reception. The man who talks every bit as forcefully as he once rode was reduced to tears of joy.

CHELTENHAM 97 FESTIVAL

"I rode four winners at Cheltenham but to train one is much better," Walsh said in the winner's enclosure. "The Irish people know I love every aspect of the game. I have been coming here for 30 years and I have cried when my friends have had a winner. I have often wondered what it feels like and now I can say it is the best day's racing in my life."

Walsh would have been content to potter along with his string of a dozen ordinary horses until Dermot Desmond, a wealthy Dublin-based businessman, encouraged him to raise his sights. A year ago, Desmond asked Walsh if he had anything good enough for Cheltenham. When Walsh shook his head, Desmond told him to go out and find one — which he did "for the price of a good car."

Commanche Court certainly has the engine of one. Under Norman Williamson, he stalked the pace before declaring an interest soon after halfway. When the rugged chestnut nosed ahead after the final flight Walsh could hardly contain his instincts of old. But he would have been proud of the finish Williamson conjured to repel Circus Star and Shooting Light in a pulsating finish.

If less boisterously celebrated, Karshi's triumph in the Tripleprint Stayers' Hurdle generated a real sense of achievement among his connections. Owned and bred by Lord Vestey, the chairman of Cheltenham racecourse, Karshi is trained by his sister-in-law, Henrietta Knight. It was a first Festival winner for them both.

In reuniting Jamie Osborne with Karshi, the trainer elected to maintain a combination undefeated in two previous efforts. The decision paid dividends, for Osborne, doubtless aware of Karshi's capabilities, chose not to chase down a pre-emptive strike attempted by David Bridgwater on Escartefigue.

Bridgwater had moved too soon in this annual gallop of attrition. His mount, having looked the likely winner when disposing of Paddy's Return, reached the pain barrier approaching the final flight — by which time Osborne had manoeuvred into contention. The jockey went on to seal his second winner of the week with a flourish.

Osborne's tally left him one adrift of Tony McCoy and Richard Dunwoody — who landed the concluding Vincent O'Brien County Hurdle on Barna Boy — in the London Club Charity Trophy, recognising the Festival's leading rider. Fittingly, however, McCoy, outstanding in his Champion Hurdle-Gold Cup double, took the honour on second places.

A sequence of indigestible results had unsettled punters but the cheers greeting Sparky Gayle's Cathcart Chase triumph suggested some damage had been repaired. It is unusual for small trainers to resist rich pickings en route to Cheltenham, yet in plotting such a course with Sparky Gayle, Colin Parker produced this gifted seven-year-old at the peak of his powers.

A £10 million redevelopment of the Tattersalls grandstand allowed a Gold Cup crowd of 59,488 — up 12 per cent on last year — to circulate more freely than at previous Festivals. And the three recorded equine deaths, much reduced from last year's calamity, was just reward for the executive's watering policy.

Fantus in line for National

BY CARL EVANS

RICHARD BARBER could lay a claim to the training performance of the Cheltenham Festival after Fantus had landed the Christies Foxhunter Chase for the second time.

The winner now merits consideration as a leading candidate for the Grand National, in which he is set to carry just ten stone. Coral cut him to 33-1 from 50-1 for Aintree and that might look generous if Tony McCoy takes the ride.

Connections will finalise plans in the next few days but the ten-year-old, who cannot run in a handicap from Barber's point-to-point yard, is set to join Paul Nicholls next week.

The ten-year-old Fantus has been dogged by leg problems throughout his racing career and it took a master of the art to bring him to fitness on the big day. Fantus's victory gave Barber his third success in the race in six years and also gave his rider Tim Mitchell, 29, his first Cheltenham winner.

Fantus won the race in 1995 but was sidelined last season and only returned to the track, after a near two-year absence, last month.

A big horse, his breathing has been an additional problem for Barber, who thought the going yesterday might be too quick. "I told Tim to stay near the pace because on that ground I didn't think he would be able to quicken if the front-runners turned up the throttle," Barber said. "He rode perfectly."

Double Silk cut out much of the running but Fantus was sent on at the foot of the hill and his rivals were struggling from there. Mitchell's only problem involved a loose horse, stablemate Still In Business, who nearly brought the pair down at the top of the hill.

"I can't tell you what I called him, but after that he gave us a perfect lead all the way up the hill," Mitchell said. "This is my lifetime ambition achieved."

Cab On Target, the runner-up, looked a danger but could not quicken, while third-placed What A Hand hated the ground, his rider, Philip Fenton, reported.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.00 ELITE RACING CLUB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade I: 4-Y-0: £44,289: 2m 1f)

COMMANCHE COURT ch c Commanche Run - Sorceress (D Desmond) 11-0 N Williamson (9-1) 1.

Circus Star b g Soviet Star - Circus Act (The Ringmasters) 11-0 R Johnson (40-1) 2.

Shooting Light b g Shernazar - Church Light (J Brown) 11-0 R Dunwoody (7-1) 3.

L'Opera ch g Old Vic - Ma Pavlova (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) 11-0 J Osborne (11-2) 4

ALSO RAN 9-2 fav White Sea, 10 Karawa, 12 Stylish Allure, 14 Kings Witness (pu), 16 No More Hassle, 25 Pomme Secret, 33 Hayaain (5th), Marionetta (6th), Miss Roberto, 40 Harbet House (f), 50 Belmarita, Double Agent (f), Evrica, Mr Wild, Mutanassib, Serenus, 66 Always Happy, Seattle Alley, 100 Exalted, Merawang, Pleasureland, 200 Palamon, Society Girl, Warning Reef. 28 ran. 1l, 1¾l, 1¼l, 4l, 1l. T Walsh (Ire) at Kill, Co Kildare. Tote: £8.70; £1.90, £7.50, £1.90, £1.50. DF: £301.70. Trio: £577.40. CSF: £302.52. Tricast: £2,425.80

2.35 BONUSPRINT STAYERS HURDLE (Grade I: £53,440: 3m 110yd)

KARSHI b g Persian Bold - Kashmir Snow (Lord Vestey) 7-11-10 J Osborne (20-1) 1.

Anzum b g Ardross - Muznah (The Old Foresters Partnership) 6-11-10 R Johnson (25-1) 2.

Paddy's Return B b g Kahyasi - Bayazida (P O'Donnell) 5-11-10 R Hughes (20-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Escartefigue (5th), 6 Urubande (f), What A Question (6th), 7 Ocean Hawk, Trainglot, 15-2 Conquering Leader (f), 8 Pridwell, 25 Derrymoyle, 33 Sohrab (4th), 40 Tarrs Bridge, 60 Tragic Hero (ro), 66 Wisley Wonder, 100 Ealing Court, Top Spin. 17 ran. 2½l, 2l, 1¾l, sh hd, 1¾l. Miss H Knight at Wantage. Tote: £26.90; £6.00, £6.70, £4.40. DF: £219.60. Trio: £1,060.50. CSF: £369.73

3.15 TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade I: £134,810: 3m 2f 110yd)

MR MULLIGAN ch g Torus - Miss Manhattan (M and G Worcester) 9-12-0 A P McCoy (20-1) 1.

Barton Bank br g Kambalda - Lucifer's Daughter (Mrs J Mould) 11-12-0 D Walsh (33-1) 2.

Dorans Pride ch g Orchestra - Marians Pride (T Doran) 8-12-0 J P Broderick (10-1) 3.

ALSO RAN 4-1 fav Imperial Call (pu), 7 Danoli (f), One Man (6th), 15-2 Coome Hill, 8 Dublin Flyer (pu), 12 Cyborgo, 16 Challenger Du Luc (5th), Unguided Missile (f), 20 Go Nahthan Lad (pu), 33 Banjo (pu), 50 Go Ballistic (4th). 14 ran. NR: Addington Boy. 9l, ½l, 6l, 3l, 16l. N Chance at Lambourn. Tote: £21.50; £4.30, £5.60, £4.10. DF: £296.50. Trio: £1,823.40. CSF: £448.05

3.55 CHRISTIES FOXHUNTER CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (£19,887: 3m 2f 110yd)

FANTUS b g Green Shoon - Brave Dorney (J Keighley) 10-12-0 Mr T Mitchell (10-1) 1.

Cab On Target br g Strong Gale - Smart Fashion (N Hurst) 11-12-0 Mr S Swiers (4-1 fav) 2.

What A Hand ch g Nearly A Hand - Kiki Star (F Bonsal) 9-12-0 Mr P Fenton (6-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 13-2 Double Silk (5th), Tearaway King (pu), 9 Still In Business (ur), 10 Holland House (pu), The Jogger, 12 Lord Relic (pu), 16 Celtic Abbey (4th), 20 Miss Millbrook (pu), Mr Golightly (pu), 33 Colonial Kelly (pu), Copper Thistle, My Nominee (pu), 100 Clobracken Lad (pu), Clonroche Steve, Final Pride (6th). 18 ran. 1¾l, 11l, 7l, 9l, 15l. R Barber at Beaminster. Tote: £23.30; £5.20, £2.20, £2.30. DF: £58.10. Trio: £90.40. CSF: £47.34.

4.30 125TH YEAR OF THE CHELTENHAM GRAND ANNUAL CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap: £28,679: 2m 110yd)

UNCLE ERNIE b g Uncle Pokey - Ladyfold (Lady Lloyd Webber) 12-11-4 G Bradley (20-1) 1.

Elzoba B b g Un Desperado - Iboca (D Johnson) 5-10-8 A P McCoy (13-2) 2.

Perknapp b g King Persian - Knapping (Mrs S Purcell) 10-10-0 C F Swan (25-1) 3.

Time Won't Wait b g Bulldozer - Time Will Wait (Old Berks Partnership) 8-11-1 J Railton (8-1) 4.

ALSO RAN. 7-2 fav Certainly Strong, 8 Easthorpe (pu), 9 Super Coin, 10 Garolo (pu), 14 Kilbreet, 16 Dancing Paddy, Mister Oddy (ur), Political Tower (6th), 20 Storm Falcon, 25 Cable Beach, Scoble Boy (5th), 33 Norse Raider (f). 16 ran. 2l, 1l, 2½l, 3l, nk. J Fitzgerald at Malton. Tote: £23.00; £3.20, £2.10, £4.20, £2.60. DF: £145.70. Trio £1,775.30. CSF: £127.80. Tricast: £3,014.11

5.05 CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (£32,850: 2m 5f)

SPARKY GAYLE b g Strong Gale - Baybush (& Mrs Raymond Anderson Green) 7-11-3 B Storey (3-1 fav) 1.

Major Bell br g Silly Prices - Melaura Belle (I Middlemiss) 9-11-3 A Dobbin (5-1) 2.

Or Royal B gr g Kendor - Pomme Royale (D Johnson) 6-11-3 A P McCoy (4-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 4 Double Symphony (pu), 15-2 Manhattan Castle (pu), 10 Wild West Wind (4th), 11 Stately Home (6th), 20 Destin d'Estruval (5th), 40 The Reverend Bert, 66 Pimberley Place. 10 ran. 4l, 2½l, 13l, 8l, 2½l. C Parker at Lockerbie. Tote: £3.70; £1.50, £1.80, £2.00. DF: £8.00. Trio: £12.80. CSF: £17.28.

5.40 VINCENT O'BRIEN COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade III: £26,614: 2m 1f)

BARNA BOY b g Torus - Barna Beauty (L Wilson) 9-10-12 R Dunwoody (14-1) 1.

Carlito Brigante b g Robellino - Norpella (Lady Bamford) 5-10-0 J Osborne (13-2) 2.

Penny A Day b g Supreme Leader - Mursuma (J Good) 7-11-8 P Niven (15-2) 3.

Black Queen bb m Bob Back - Queen Of Wolves (H Pollmeier) 6-10-4 A J O'Brien (12-1) 4.

ALSO RAN: 11-2 fav Tidjani (5th), 7 Hamilton Silk, 8 Celtic Lore, 12 Romancer, Toast The Spreece, 14 Cheryl's Lad, Lady Daisy, Tom Brodie, 16 Ambleside, Slew Man, Star Rage, 33 Mytton's Choice, Stompin, 40 Ground Nut, 50 Faustino, Morstock (6th). 20 ran. NR: Edelweis Du Moulin, Embellished, Kadastrof. 1l, 3l, 1l, hd, nk. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £20.80; £3.20, £2.10, £2.60, £3.00. DF: £50.30. Trio: £214.10. CSF: £104.97. Tricast: £709.22

Jackpot: not won (pool of £228,233.20 carried forward to Folkestone today)

Placepot: £8,227.50. Quadpot: £140.80

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HAWAIIAN YOUTH
(3.10 Fakenham)

Next best: Coolteen Hero
(3.30 Folkestone)

Hexham

Going: good, good to soft in places

2.25 (2m hdle) 1. Apollo's Daughter (F Leahy, 5-1); 2. Ski Path (25-1); 3. Peggy Gordon (4-1). Qualitair Pride 3-1 fav. 11 ran. 13l, 11l. J Goulding. Tote: £6.30; £1.80, £9.00, £2.00. DF: £121.10. Trio: £120.50. CSF: £110.37. Tricast: £508.39

3.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1. Rallegio (G Cahill, 10-11 fav); 2. Exemplar (6-1); 3. Tapatch (7-4). 8 ran. 1¾l, 3l. P Monteith. Tote: £1.50; £1.00, £1.80, £2.70. DF: £6.10. CSF: £7.51

3.35 (4m ch) 1. Hudson Bay Trader (B Grattan, 10-1); 2. Off The Bru (2-1 fav); 3. Gold Pigeon (5-1). 8 ran. 1½l, 3l. P Beaumont. Tote: £11.00; £2.70, £1.40, £1.80. DF: £8.30. CSF: £30.00. Tricast: £106.78

4.05 (3m hdle) 1. Magpie Melody (R Supple, 11-4); 2. Pebble Beach (8-1); 3. Southern Cross (9-4 fav). 12 ran. 2l, 3½l. L Lungo. Tote: £3.40; £2.40, £2.30, £1.70. DF: £22.00. Trio: £27.70. CSF: £29.95

4.40 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. Cullane Lake (R Supple, 6-1); 2. Willie Sparkle (12-1); 3. Snook Point (20-1). Panah 13-8 fav (ur). 12 ran. 8l, 11l. Miss M Milligan. Tote: £11.30; £2.00, £2.70, £8.00. DF: £21.90. Trio: £116.00. CSF: £78.88. Tricast: £1,311.18

5.15 (3m hdle) 1. Corbleu (P Johnson, 12-1); 2. Five Flags (6-1); 3. The Other Man (10-1). Menshaar 3-1 fav. 11 ran. 1½l, nk. S Bell. Tote: £20.30; £4.10, £2.40, £1.70. DF: £88.80. Trio: £143.90 (part won; pool of £52.70 carried forward to 2.20 at Southwell today). CSF: £96.43. Tricast: £710.82

Placepot: £409.10. Quadpot: £165.80

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.15 (1m) 1. Roman Reel (Mrs J Moore, 13-2); 2. Dream Carrier (9-2); 3. Love Legend (20-1). Biya 4-1 fav. 10 ran. NR: Titanium Honda. 4l, 3l. G L Moore. Tote: £9.50; £2.80, £1.10, £3.90. DF: £12.60. Trio: £24.90. CSF: £32.25. Tricast: £516.75

2.45 (1m 4f) 1. In The Money (D Griffiths, 7-4 fav); 2. Fabulous Mtoto (9-2); 3. Mister Aspecto (5-1). 7 ran. ¾l, 3½l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £3.70. DF: £4.30. CSF: £9.57

3.20 (7f) 1. Ertlon (W Ryan, 5-2 fav); 2. Greatest (7-2); 3. Spencer's Revenge (10-1). 9 ran. NR: Our Shadee. 3½l, ¾l. C Brittain. Tote: £3.00; £1.90, £1.50, £1.90. DF: £12.10. Trio: £64.30. CSF: £11.05.

3.50 (6f) 1. Shontaine (D McKeown, 11-2); 2. Mellors (11-8 fav); 3. Justinianus (7-1). 8 ran. ½l, ¾l. M Johnston. Tote: £6.90; £1.90, £1.10, £2.00. DF: £4.40. CSF: £12.34

4.20 (1m 2f) 1. Secret Aly (W Ryan, 8-1); 2. Prince Danzig (12-1); 3. Tallulah Belle (15-2). Renown 4-1 fav. 12 ran. Nk, 1¾l. C Brittain. Tote: £10.30; £3.70, £2.90, £4.70. DF: £46.40. Trio: £311.30 (part won; pool of £43.86 carried forward to 2.20 at Southwell today). CSF: £102.47. Tricast: £708.99

4.50 (5f) 1. Ivory's Grab Hire (Martin Dwyer, 3-1); 2. Sally Slade (6-1); 3. Gi La High (4-1). Bowcliffe Grange 2-1 fav. 7 ran. Nk, hd. K Ivory. Tote: £4.30; £1.50, £3.30. DF: £16.90. CSF: £21.56

5.25 (1m) 1. Don't Drop Bombs (Miss J Feilden, 7-2 fav); 2. Eastleigh (5-1); 3. Gadge (11-1). 10 ran. 1¾l, 2½l. D Thom. Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £3.60, £3.10. DF: £11.20. Trio: £21.70. CSF: £19.80. Tricast: £164.92

Placepot: £154.60. Quadpot: £46.50.

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FAKENHAM

THUNDERER

2.10 Arch Angel. 2.40 Arise. 3.10 Hawaiian Youth. 3.40 Kintavi. 4.10 Brogeen Lady. 4.40 Formidable Partner. 5.10 Air Commodore.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 KINTAVI.

Carl Evans: 2.40 Broad Steane.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.10 WYMONDHAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,735: 2m) (12 runners)

1	0352	CADDY'S FIRST 67F S Mellor 5-11-10	Chris Webb (5)	90
2	0023	NAGOBELIA 13 (CD,F,G,S) J Pearce 9-11-6	J O'Shaughnessy (7)	98
3	0450	WORDSMITH 139 (CD,G,S) J L Harris 7-11-5	R Massey (3)	97
4	4600	GENERAL SHIRLEY 11 (D,F) P Hedger 6-11-5	M Clinton (7)	●
5	30-0	HAPPY BRAVE 13F P Cundell 5-11-4	L Harvey	86
6	04	PYRRHIC DANCE 22F (F,G) M Haynes 7-11-1	J Railton	–
7	6034	ARCH ANGEL 20 G Charles-Jones 4-10-8	X Aizpuru (7)	89
8	0-40	BLUE DOMAIN 18 R Craggs 6-10-8	A Dobbin	97
9	00-0	RAFTER-J 15 J A Harris 6-10-6	P Niven	93
10	4400	ANTIGUAN FLYER 85 (V,D,G) G Prodromou 8-10-5	Michael Brennan (3)	93
11	-623	COSMIC STAR 57 (B) P Winkworth 7-10-4	Mr R Thornton (5)	93
12	0021	RUTH'S GAMBLE 28 (V,CD,G) Mrs L Jewell 9-10-2	D Leahy	92

7-2 Ruth's Gamble, 9-2 Nagobelia, 5-1 Caddy's First, 6-1 Cosmic Star, 7-1 Wordsmith, 8-1 Happy Brave, 10-1 Arch Angel, 12-1 others.

2.40 WILLIAM BULWER-LONG MEMORIAL NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £2,382: 2m 5f 110yd) (11)

1	.322	ARISE 6P (F) A Varey 8-11-9	N R Mitchell (7)	●
2	-13F	BROAD STEANE 6P (BF,F,G,S) C Henn 8-11-9	P Scott (7)	86
3	0-36	FOXBOW 13P (G) J Turner 7-11-9	A Sansome (5)	–
4	14-P	GALZIG 9 (G) Mrs D Turner 9-11-9	W Tellwright (7)	79
5	1-02	GONE FOR LUNCH 27P (F) J Whyte 6-11-9	M Gingell (7)	–
6	24-5	GYPSY KING 23 G Cooper 9-11-9	A Coe (7)	92
7	-PP0	OLD DUNDALK 13P (B,G,S) N King 13-11-9	N King (7)	–
8	6-0P	RAYMAN 13P A Tredwell 9-11-9	R Lawther (7)	78
9	PP-U	TELLAPORKY 4 T Hind 8-11-9	A Middleton (7)	–
10	3	TRY GOD 20P Miss L Allan 10-11-9	Miss L Allan (7)	–
11	2-B2	WHAT CHANCE 12P (S) Mrs H Mobley 9-11-4	A Charles-Jones (7)	–

9-4 Arise, 3-1 Broad Steane, 6-1 Gone For Lunch, 7-1 Foxbow, 10-1 Galzig, Gypsy King, What Chance, 14-1 others.

3.10 JEWSON HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,335: 2m 5f 110yd) (5)

1	2112	HAWAIIAN YOUTH 8 (D,BF,F,G,S) G McCourt 9-11-10	D Fortt (3)	95
2	-P16	ARTIC WINGS 13 (CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 9-11-9	M Brennan	●
3	3635	PATS MINSTREL 84 (F,G,S) R Champion 12-11-4	A Dobbin	94
4	5132	WHIPPERS DELIGHT 28 (D,G,S) G Charles-Jones 9-10-10	X Aizpuru (7)	95
5	P40P	LODESTONE LAD 17 (V,CD,G) R Dickin 7-10-0	D Leahy	89

5-4 Hawaiian Youth, 3-1 Artic Wings, 7-2 Whippers Delight, 8-1 others.

3.40 DOWNHAM MARKET HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,697: 2m) (9)

1	1424	BARFORD SOVEREIGN 20 (C,F,G) J Fanshawe 5-12-0	A Dobbin	94
2	P325	ISAIAH 25 (D,BF,F,S) Mrs J Cecil 8-11-13	T Kent	93
3	1213	KINTAVI 4 (CD,BF,G,S) T Donnelly 7-11-4	P Niven	●
4	F6-P	ERINNY 265 (D,F,S) J Quinn 8-10-12	E Callaghan (3)	90
5	0UF-	SALMAN 300 (CD,F,G) Mrs V Ward 11-10-12	Mr R Thornton (5)	91
6	12-4	IRISH EMERALD 28 (CD,F,G) C Bravery 10-10-3	K Gaule	–
7	0005	LUCY TUFTY 15 (G) J Pearce 6-10-0	J O'Shaughnessy (7)	91
8	0020	AJDAR 16 (CD,G) O Brennan 6-10-0	M Brennan	98
9	5606	STONE ISLAND 28 (S) J Whyte 4-10-0	Miss C Townsley (7)	80

2-1 Kintavi, 5-2 Barford Sovereign, 7-2 Isaiah, 8-1 Erinny, 10-1 Ajdar, 12-1 Irish Emerald, 14-1 others.

4.10 CASTLEACRE MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,417: 3m 110yd) (8)

1	0603	CHARTER LANE 28 Mrs L Jewell 7-11-5	D Leahy	68
2	0632	DESPERATE DAYS 14 F Kirby 8-11-5	W Dwan	76
3	0-3P	GLENDINE 35 C Mann 7-11-5	J Railton	61
4	2002	JOLLY BOAT 11 (F,G,S) F Jordan 10-11-5	S Wynne	76
5	-544	MUSIC MASTER 15 (B) C Egerton 7-11-5	A Dobbin	–
6	P	SEABRIGHT SAGA 7 M Chapman 7-11-5	W Worthington	–
7	6FF5	BROGEEN LADY 8 D Gandolfo 7-11-0	P Niven	●
8	0-F6	ELL GEE 23 Mrs P Townsley 7-11-0	Miss C Townsley (7)	–

2-1 Brogeen Lady, 11-4 Jolly Boat, 3-1 Music Master, 5-1 Desperate Days, 7-1 Charter Lane, 12-1 Glendine, 25-1 others.

4.40 HOLKHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £1,838: 2m) (8)

1	4R0	FLORID 15 C Brooks 6-11-8	M Berry	●
		MAJRA 862F Miss S Embiricos 5-11-8	D Walsh	–
3	P P	O K KEALY 24 M Chapman 7-11-6	F Leahy	–
4	0P-0	SHEDANSAR 49F P Spicer 5-11-6	C Rae	–
5	4045	THE STUFFED PUFFIN 8 C Mann 7-11-8	J Magee	70
6	6	COVEN MOON 240F C Millington 7-11-3	E Callaghan	–
	635	FORMIDABLE PARTNER 15 (V) Mrs V Ward 4-11-0	Michael Brennan	94
8	5	TAARISH 11 S Mellor 4-11-0	Chris Webb	–

5-4 Formidable Partner, 7-4 Florid, 4-1 Taarish, The Stuffed Puffin, 8-1 others.

5.10 HOLKHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £1,831: 2m) (8)

1	P	ACERBUS DULCIS 25F M Chapman 6-11-6	F Leahy	–
2		AIR COMMODORE 174F G Arbuthnot 6-11-6	D J Kavanagh	–
3	0050	HOLKHAM BAY 15 L Wordingham 5-11-8	D Fortt	–
4		RESERVATION ROCK 974F T Hind 6-11-8	A Bates	–
5	-455	WENTWORTH 21 C Tinkler 5-11-6	Clare Thorner	●
6	F	GENEPEUA 5 S Mellor 4-11-6	Chris Webb	–
7		MUHANDAM 259F Mrs C [illegible] 4-11-6	P Henley	–
8		CREDITE RISQUE 336F [illegible] 4-10-9	R Massey	–

6-4 Air Commodore, [illegible] Wentworth, 6-1 Credite Risque, [illegible] Holkham Bay, Muhandam, [illegible] Reservation Rock, [illegible] others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: [illegible] 6 winners from 9 runners, 66.7%. O Brennan, [illegible] from 35, [illegible]. Mrs [illegible] 5 from 22, 22.7%. C Bravery, 5 from [illegible].

JOCKEYS: M [illegible] winners from 48 rides, 25.1%. Only qualifier.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.20 Mr Speculator. 2.50 Live Project. 3.20 K S Sunshine. 3.50 Double-O. 4.20 Mardrew. 4.50 Square Deal. 5.20 Genuine John.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 ZEUS APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£2,671: 1m 4f) (17 runners)

1	1-23	HEIGHTH OF FAME 10 (D,G) J Hetherton 6-10-0	H Bastiman 4
2	00-0	JOHNNIE THE JOKER 14 (C,F,G) J Leigh 6-9-13	P Fessey 5
3	310-	DIRAB 176 (C,F,G) T Barron 4-9-12	Kimberley Hart (3) 17
4	1-00	MAZUREK 14 (G) M Meagher 4-9-10	G Lee 2
5	1132	MONO LADY 16 (C,G) D Haydn Jones 4-9-5	Joelene Richards (7) 14
6	2231	MAFTUN 14 (CD,F,G) G Moore 5-9-4	G Milligan (3) 13
7	5242	ZATOPEK 18 J Cullinan 5-8-10	D Sweeney 3
8	/4/	I'M A DREAMER 11J (C,F,G) Miss M Rowland 7-8-9	Darren Williams (7) 12
9	2310	MR SPECULATOR 21 (V,D,F,G) J Banks 4-8-8	G Faulkner 1
10	26-3	MOONRAKING 18 T Etherington 4-8-6	G Parkin 7
11	-301	WILDFIRE 39 (C,D,G,S) R Akehurst 6-8-6	D Denby (5) 9
12	0214	CAROL AGAIN 14 (CD,G) N Bycroft 5-8-5	Jo Hunnam (3) 16
13	4-00	NOBLE CANONIRE 50J (B,C,G) D Shaw 5-8-5	S Righton (5) 10
14	1302	KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 14 (CD,F,G) J Parkes 7-7-11	J Bramhill (3) 11
15	000-	HASTA LA VISTA 155 (B,CD,G) M W Easterby 7-7-11	R Mullen (3) 8
16	060-	MAY KING MAYHEM 146 Mrs A King 4-7-10	P Doe (5) 6
17	50/	NORTHERN CHARMER 339J E Alston 5-7-10	J Fowle (5) 15

5-1 Wildfire, 6-1 Maftun, 7-1 Kilnamartyra Girl, Carol Again, 8-1 Heighth Of Fame, Mr Speculator, 10-1 Mono Lady, 12-1 others.

2.50 APHRODITE CLAIMING STAKES
(Div I: £2,528: 1m) (10)

1	00-2	FLAG FEN 14 (G,S) J Parkes 6-9-7	J Bramhill (5) 2
2	1100	SARASI 9 (B,CD,BF,G) M Camacho 5-9-7	L Charnock 7
3	5-65	FIRST GOLD 24J (C,F,G,S) J Wharton 8-9-6	K Fallon 4
4	1021	LIVE PROJECT 10 (C,D,G,S) M Johnston 5-9-6	D McKeown 1
5	000-	CLASSIC VICTORY 14J (F) I Campbell 4-9-5	T G McLaughlin 10
6	-040	NATAL RIDGE 13 D Haydn Jones 4-9-3	A Clark 3
7	0046	ROYAL ACCLAIM 14 (V,CD,F,G,S) C Jackson 12-9-3	Dale Gibson 5
8	3324	SANDMOOR DENIM 14 (CD,F,G,S) S Bowring 10-9-3	S Webster 9
9	4611	SOLDIER COVE 9 (D,G,S) M Meade 7-9-3	D Sweeney (5) 8
10	5-03	DAVID JAMES GIRL 9 (CD,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-0	Angela Gallimore (7) 6

7-2 Live Project, 4-1 Soldier Cove, 5-1 Sarasi, 6-1 David James Girl, 7-1 Sandmoor Denim, 8-1 Royal Acclaim, Flag Fen, 10-1 others.

3.20 APOLLO MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,294: 6f) (9)

1	04	BARWELL BOY 25 J L Harris 9-0	K Fallon 1
2	0-5	GLIMMERING HOPE 25 Miss J Craze 9-0	S Webster 3
3	0	HEATHYARD'S FLIGHT 23 R Hollinshead 9-0	W Ryan 5
4	0-56	IMPISH 32 T Etherington 9-0	Dane O'Neill 9
5		RISK ME TOO P Harris 9-0	A Clark 2
6	300-	SARATOGA RED 203 W O'Gorman 9-0	Emma O'Gorman 8
7		SUPERAPPAROS S Bowring 9-0	D McKeown 4
8		BONYALUA MILL A Streeter 8-9	R Havlin (3) 6
9		K S SUNSHINE W Haggas 8-9	R Cochrane 7

6-4 Saratoga Red, 2-1 K S Sunshine, 8-1 Barwell Boy, 10-1 Glimmering Hope, 12-1 Risk Me Too, 14-1 Impish, 16-1 others.

3.50 ACHILLES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,889: 6f) (4)

1	D-11	V I P CHARLIE 24 (CD,G) J Jenkins 9-7	S Whitworth 4
2	4211	THE WYANDOTTE INN 22 (D,G) R Hollinshead 9-6	F Lynch (3) 3
3	-522	PLAN FOR PROFIT 22 (BF,F) M Johnston 9-5	D McKeown 2
4	15-6	DOUBLE-O 70 (D,G) W Jarvis 8-9	K Fallon 1

5-4 V I P Charlie, 11-4 The Wyandotte Inn, 3-1 Plan For Profit, 4-1 Double-O

4.20 SOUTHWELL SELLING SERIES STAKES FINAL (Handicap: 3-Y-O: £4,026: 1m) (7)

1	1113	BAILIEBOROUGH BOY 13 (B,CD,G) T Barron 9-7	D Harrison 1
2	136	MARDREW 33 (CD,BF,G) D ffrench Davis 9-3	J Quinn 2
3	2302	ASPECTO LAD 13 (CD,G) M Johnston 8-13	M Henry (3) 5
4	3430	ROCHEA 11 (V) Mrs N Macauley 8-10	A Clark 3
5	3261	HEAD GIRL 32 (CD,G) C Thornton 8-9	D McKeown 4
6	6-25	WARP DRIVE 23 (B) W Muir 8-7	Dane O'Neill 6
7	1465	MIRROR FOUR SPORT 11 (CD,G) M Johnston 8-4	K Sked (7) 7

2-1 Bailieborough Boy, 7-2 Aspecto Lad, 5-1 Head Girl, 7-1 Rochea, 8-1 Mardrew, 10-1 Mirror Four Sport, 12-1 Warp Drive

4.50 APHRODITE CLAIMING STAKES
(Div II: £2,528: 1m) (10)

1	5312	NORTHERN FAN 9 (CD,G) N Tinkler 5-9-6	D McKeown 3
2	00-0	ROAR ON TOUR 14 (B,CD,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-6	A Culhane 1
3	6334	DESERT INVADER 9 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 6-9-5	L Charnock 6
4	000-	SQUARE DEAL 101 (C,G) S Bowring 6-9-5	S Webster 5
5	/22	EUROLINK THE LAD 36J (D,F,G) D Burchell 10-9-4	S Drowne 2
6	0-02	LORDAN VELVET 397 Mrs W Allen (Nor) 5-9-3	L Newton 7
7	0065	MAJOR MOUSE 14 (CD,F,G) W Haigh 9-9-3	S Whitworth 10
8	004-	BORN A LADY 172 (C,G) Mrs V Aconley 4-8-2	J Quinn 4
9	3466	FLAHA 18 (V,CD,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-0	Iona Wands (7) 9
10	0-62	JACK THE LAD 11 J Hetherton 3-8-8	M Tebbutt 8

11-4 Northern Fan, 7-2 Eurolink The Lad, 4-1 Desert Invader, 6-1 Roar On Tour, 7-1 Lordan Velvet, 8-1 Jack The Lad, 10-1 Flaha, 12-1 others

5.20 NEPTUNE MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£3,371: 7f) (6)

1	5-53	WILL DO 38 M Meade 4-9-10	D Sweeney (5) 5
2	3522	GENUINE JOHN 14 J Parkes 4-9-9	J Bramhill (5) 4
3	00-0	WHITLEY GRANGE BOY 31 J Eyre 4-9-2	T Williams 3
4	-62R	MISKY BAY 20 D Cosgrove 4-8-11	M Rimmer 2
5	33-4	SPLASHED 13 T Barron 3-8-5	R Lappin 6
6	4-20	EVENING IN PARIS 38 M Johnston 4-8-2	N Adams 1

3-4 Genuine John, 11-4 Will Do, 3-1 Splashed, 6-1 Evening In Paris, 8-1 Whitley Grange Boy, 10-1 Misky Bay

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 23 winners from 90 runners, 25.6%. M Johnston, 49 from 214, 22.9%. W Haggas, 6 from 27, 22.2%. J Banks, 8 from 37, 21.6%. P Harris, 3 from 14, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: D Denby, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%. Kimberley Hart, 8 from 29, 27.6%. Jo Hunnam, 4 from 21, 19.0%. Emma O'Gorman, 23 from 126, 18.3%. K Fallon, 20 from 117, 17.1%.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

2.00 Flash In The Pan
2.30 Sir Leonard
3.00 Sharpical
3.30 Coolteen Hero
4.00 Swinging Sixties
4.30 SUGAR HILL (nap)
5.00 Sweep Clean

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 SANDGATE MARES ONLY CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,093: 2m 1f 110yd) (11 runners)

101	0P	PRUSSIAN EAGLE 102 (B) (Mrs C Deuters) M Bradstock 5-11-12	P Holley	–
102	325538	PEDALTOTHEMETAL 11 (G Harris) P Mitchell 6-11-3	G Tormey	●
103	RFP034	LAURA LYE 51 (Charlie Productions) B De Haan 7-11-0	J Osborne	85
104	034F	WHISPERING DAWN 7 (W Ponsonby) C Brooks 4-10-12	G Bradley	96
105	1F3600	MINSTER'S MADAM 18 (V,D,S) (J Neville) J Neville 6-10-11	A P McCoy	98
106	66/040-0	OLIVIPET 39 (F Gray) F Gray 8-10-5	R Farrant	85
107	0-0P0	SPECIAL TOPIC 39 (Major R Wilson) A Jones 7-10-5	D Carey (7)	–
108	3P-0	TIGANA 15 (P Allen) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-5	J R Kavanagh	–
109	3F0	FLASH IN THE PAN 51 (Mrs V Goodman) J Moore 4-10-3	W McFarland	91
110	00	CLASSIC DELIGHT 38 (Classic Bloodstock Plc) I Campbell 4-10-0	Mr R Barrett	–
111		UDNI 10F (M Halstead) P Butler 4-10-0	T J Murphy	–

BETTING: 7-4 Pedaltothemetal, 7-2 Whispering Dawn, 4-1 Minster's Madam, 6-1 Laura Lye, 8-1 Flash In The Pan, 12-1 Olivipet, 25-1 others.

1996: JENZSOPH 5-11-2 A P McCoy (7-2) P Hobbs 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

PEDALTOTHEMETAL about 6l 3rd of 6 to Express Gift in claiming hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. LAURA LYE about 4½l 4th of 21 to Bella Sedona in selling hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, soft) with FLASH IN THE PAN (1lb worse off) 44½l 12th. WHISPERING DAWN about 15¼l 3rd of 19 to Brambles Way in claiming novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). MINSTER'S MADAM 18½l 6th of 16 to Do Be Ware in selling handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good).

OLIVIPET 14l 7th of 16 to Jovie King in claiming novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to firm) with SPECIAL TOPIC (3lb better off) 52l 11th. FLASH IN THE PAN 1½l 3rd of 9 to Stone Island in selling novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft).

Selection: PEDALTOTHEMETAL

2.30 WHITELAW GOLD CUP NOVICES CHASE (£3,774: 3m 2f) (7 runners)

201	22P4-1P	BOND JNR 97 (D,G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 8-11-11	R Johnson	93
202	434-441	FLIPPANCE 28 (G) (Exors of C Rykers) N Gaselee 7-11-11	C Llewellyn	82
203	6F46-12	HIGH LEARIE 15 (S) (E Harvey) A Harvey 7-11-11	J A McCarthy	88
204	013-310	SIR LEONARD 34 (S) (Mrs J Bishop) O Sherwood 7-11-11	J Osborne	●
205	0P/00P-4	CORRIB SONG 15 (Mrs D Price) Lady Herries 8-11-4	L Aspell (3)	–
206	0P/5	FINNEGAIS 14 (P Butler) P Butler 10-11-4	T J Murphy	–
207	2-4P4F0	SUMMER HAVEN 15 (M Rawlins) N Lampard 8-10-13	Mr A Kinane	–

BETTING: 6-4 Sir Leonard, 5-2 Bond Jnr, 9-2 High Learie, 5-1 Flippance, 14-1 Corrib Song, 16-1 others.

1996: SORBIERE 9-11-4 M A Fitzgerald (11-10 fav) N Henderson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOND JNR beat Rocky Park 6l in 6-runner handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, heavy). FLIPPANCE beat Rollestan Blade 8l in 7-runner novice chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good). HIGH LEARIE 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Tainein in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with CORRIB SONG (1lb better off) distance 4th. Previously beat Easy Breezy 2l in 9-runner novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). SIR LEONARD beat The Reverend Bert 5l in novice chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft).

Selection: HIGH LEARIE

3.00 SOMERFIELD COURT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,567: 2m 1f 110yd) (9 runners)

301	12	SHARPICAL 56 (S) (Thurloe Thoroughbreds II) N Henderson 5-11-9	M A Fitzgerald	●
302	63	FIRE ON ICE 17 (Miss M O'Toole) Mrs D Haine 5-11-2	J F Titley	79
303	0	JONBEL 15 (I Pattle) T Clement 9-11-2	N Mann	–
304	00-4	LEAP FROG 98 (R Cooper) N Gaselee 6-11-2	W Marston	68
305	00-0	RISING MAN 90 (B Naylor) J Gifford 6-11-2	L Aspell (3)	–
306	3000	SMART REMARK 21 (Miss J Rumford) T Hind 5-11-2	P McLoughlin	–
307	00	HI MARBLE 90 (Risk Takers) Mrs M Jones 6-10-11	Derek Byrne	–
308	36	KIROV ROYALE 13 (Mrs D Howard-Brown) M Campion 6-10-11	W McFarland	51
309	640	HANBITOOH 83 (F Cotton) Mrs A Perrett 4-10-8	C Maude	61

BETTING: 1-3 Sharpical, 9-2 Fire On Ice, 10-1 Leap Frog, 12-1 Hanbitooh, 16-1 Rising Man, 20-1 others

1996: HARVEST VIEW 6-11-3 D Gallagher (4-1) C Brooks 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHARPICAL beat Moonax 1¼l in 18-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). FIRE ON ICE 15l 3rd of 14 to Cambrian Maestro in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). LEAP FROG 29l 4th of 12 to Wade Road in novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good).

SMART REMARK distance 9th of 18 to Juyush in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start.

KIROV ROYALE 16l 3rd of 5 to Culrain in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, firm) Oct 96. HANBITOOH 22½l 4th of 11 to Serenus in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good)

Selection: SHARPICAL

3.30 CLIFTONVILLE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,487: 2m) (5 runners)

401	214U13	NEWLANDS-GENERAL 13 (D,F,G,S) (C Murphy) P Nicholls 11-11-10	A P McCoy	94
402	UF122-P	PHARSILK 36 (D,G) (Miss J Rumford) T Hind 6-10-13	P McLoughlin	–
403	5-42302	LASATA 4 (D,G,S) (R Carson) R Carson 12-10-11	D Morris	●
404	565-305	THE CARROT MAN 22 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Winkworth) P Winkworth 9-10-3	P Hide	98
405	12U5U1	COOLTEEN HERO 32 (D,F,S) (J M & J W Cook) R Alner 7-10-0	W McFarland	81

Long handicap: Coolteen Hero 9-12

BETTING: 5-4 Newlands-General, 9-4 Coolteen Hero, 5-1 The Carrot Man, 6-1 Lasata, 12-1 Pharsilk.

1996: PEACEMAN 10-11-8 J F Titley (8-11 fav) Mrs D Haine 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

NEWLANDS-GENERAL beat Dear Do 23l in 4-runner handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft) Nov 96. LASATA 2l 2nd of 5 to Dr Rocket in conditional handicap chase at Taunton (2m 110yd, good). THE CARROT MAN about 7½l 5th of 7 to Maestro Paul in handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good). COOLTEEN HERO beat Purbeck Cavalier 6l in 9-runner novice chase at Plumpton (2m, good to soft)

Selection: NEWLANDS-GENERAL

4.00 PEASMARSH SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,962: 2m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

501	611/530-	MOYNSHA HOUSE 329 (CD,G,S) (P Byrne) B Curley 9-12-0	B Fenton	87
502	0-3402P	MULLINTOR 23 (T Thompson) R Rowe 6-11-11	D O'Sullivan	96
503	106	ZESTI 39 (G) (Miss R Bryant) T Clement 5-11-6	R Johnson	89
504	0000-5	SWINGING SIXTIES 10F (K Higson) G L Moore 6-11-6	A P McCoy	–
505	PP-PFF1	CARACOL 32 (G,S) (C Bolton) J Neville 8-10-13	T Dascombe (3)	●
506	/2106-0	ANNABEL'S BABY 43 (D,G) (R Peake) D Wintle 8-10-9	W Marston	88
507	33400-0	VINTAGE TAITTINGER 100 (Die-Hard Racing Club) C Weedon 5-10-8	M Richards	94
508	6F0-0P2	PARISIAN 23 (Mrs J Blackwell) J Bennett 12-10-8	A Lucas (7)	98
509	P-F0530	PRECIOUS WONDER 11 (D Butler) P Butler 8-10-7	T J Murphy	97
510	P00P55	RUSTIC GENT 7 (B,F,S) (Sadlers Estate Agents) Mrs L Jewell 9-10-5	Sophie Mitchell (5)	–
511	U0P/	MIRAGE OF WINDSOR 1455 (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 9-10-5	E Murphy	–
512	3P66/PP	ANIF 27 (J Joseph) J Joseph 6-10-0	D Skyrme	–

Long handicap: Anif 9-10

BETTING: 7-2 Caracol, 4-1 Parisian, 6-1 Mullintor, 7-1 Swinging Sixties, 8-1 Mirage Of Windsor, Moynsha House, 10-1 Zesti, 12-1 others

1996: ALL TALK NO ACTION 7-10-7 E Murphy (4-1) B Curley 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOYNSHA HOUSE about 1¼l 3rd of 13 to Keel Row in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to firm) April 96. MULLINTOR 3l 2nd of 16 to Jovie King in claiming novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to firm) with ZESTI (4lb worse off) 7¾l 6th. CARACOL beat Arinso 1¼l in 16-runner claiming maiden hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). PARISIAN ¾l 2nd of 13 to Killing Time in selling handicap hurdle over course and distance (heavy) with PRECIOUS WONDER (3lb better off) 3l 3rd. MIRAGE OF WINDSOR 16l 9th of 20 to Night Wind in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft) Jan 93

Selection: PARISIAN (nap)

4.30 FAIR ROSAMUND HANDICAP CHASE (£2,779: 3m 2f) (11 runners)

601	F/3-U260	YEOMAN WARRIOR 22 (C,S) (Mrs H Alwen) R Rowe 10-11-11	D O'Sullivan	95
602	2-25216	SUGAR HILL 51 (S) (Mrs T Pilkington) J Gifford 7-10-13	P Hide	88
603	4-P431	APATURA HATI 14 (G,S) (Mrs R Hutchings) R Alner 8-10-10	W McFarland	98
604	43-PP34	ROYAL SAXON 15 (F,G,S) (G Morris) P Bowen 11-10-8	R Johnson	95
605	356404	SHAMARPHIL 8 (F,S) (Miss S Barraclough) R Alner 11-10-6	Miss S Barraclough	●
606	F/P4P6P	CRUISE CONTROL 11 (N Blair) R Rowe 11-10-1	A Garrity (7)	87
607	P/P-PP54	BE SURPRISED 27 (C,G) (F Hill) G L Moore 11-10-0	B Powell	92
608	2/40563	RUBINS BOY 9 (F) (J Cooper) N Walker 11-10-0	R Farrant	85
609	5-P4	NIKKIS PET 14 (Mrs K Berry) J Neville 10-10-0	W Marston	76
610	2355P5	JOKER JACK 28 (F,S) (R Dean) R Dean 12-10-0	T Dascombe (3)	84
611	P0/3-PPP	LITTLE ROWLEY 39 (J Judd) Mrs L Richards 8-10-0	M Richards	–

Long handicap: Be Surprised 9-9, Rubins Boy 9-9, Nikkis Pet 9-2, Joker Jack 8-13, Little Rowley 8-11

BETTING: 3-1 Sugar Hill, 7-2 Yeoman Warrior, 9-2 Royal Saxon, 5-1 Apatura Hati, 6-1 Shamarphil, 8-1 Cruise Control, 12-1 others

1996: BIG BEN DUN 10-11-7 D Gallagher (5-2) C Brooks 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

YEOMAN WARRIOR 2l 2nd of 17 to Bendor Mark in handicap chase at Leicester (3m, good to firm) SUGAR HILL beat Slideofhill 3½l in 15-runner maiden chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft) APATURA HATI beat Normarange distance in 9-runner maiden chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, soft). ROYAL SAXON 16l 3rd of 6 to Equity Player in handicap chase at Windsor (3m, good). RUBINS BOY 28l 3rd of 14 to Cariboo Gold in novice handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft).

Selection: SUGAR HILL

5.00 H B L B FOLKESTONE MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,329: 2m 1f 110yd) (16 runners)

1		CEEYOU AT MIDNIGHT (Miss D Crewe) W Turner 6-11-8	J Power (7)	–
2	420	GOWER-SLAVE 28 (B Bevan) P Bowen 5-11-8	R Johnson	–
3		KING OF SWING (The Troubadours-Four Seasons Racing) V Soane 5-11-8	J Culloty	–
4		LEGGIES LEGACY (A Russell) Miss A Newton-Smith 6-11-8	R Farrant	–
5	6	POLO RIDGE 49 (J Moxon) O Sherwood 5-11-8	J Osborne	–
6	223	SHEBANG 28 (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 5-11-8	Mr H Dunlop (7)	–
7		SILVER SIROCCO (F Sainsbury) Mrs M Jones 5-11-8	Derek Byrne	–
8		SMART GUY (Mrs P Dorton) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-8	A Thornton	–
9	2	SUNDAY VENTURE 98 (BF) (F Sainsbury) N Henderson 5-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	–
10	0	SWEEP CLEAN 13 (BF) (Mrs A Brodie) J Gifford 5-11-8	P Hide	–
11	540	THE CROPPY BOY 86 (Winterbourne Plant Ltd) J Neville 5-11-8	T Dascombe (3)	–
12		LAST PENNY (B) (W Wales) J Ringer 5-11-3	B Powell	–
13		MAINE MARIE (Mrs D Grissell) D Grissell 5-11-3	J R Kavanagh	–
14		PURE SWING (U Letterbox Marketing Ltd (NLM)) J Pearce 4-11-0	N Mann	–
15		CUE CALL (Mrs D Haine) Mrs D Haine 4-10-9	J F Titley	–
16	30	GOLDEN LILY 13 (Mrs M Fairbairn) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-9	A P McCoy	–

BETTING: 2-1 Sunday Venture, 7-2 Sweep Clean, 5-1 Shebang, 8-1 Polo Ridge, 12-1 Golden Lily, Pure Swing, 14-1 Gower-Slave, 16-1 others.

1996: BOARDROOM SHUFFLE 5-11-8 P Hide (7-2) J Gifford 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

POLO RIDGE 32½l 6th of 16 to Mr Lurpak in National Hunt Flat at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) SHEBANG 2l 2nd of 12 to King Of Camelot in National Hunt Flat at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm) Dec 96. SUNDAY VENTURE 3½l 2nd of 15 to Dom Beltrano in National Hunt Flat at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft). SWEEP CLEAN 29l 10th of 16 to Red Curate in National Hunt Flat at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft)

Selection: SUNDAY VENTURE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Winkworth	3	7	42.9	E Murphy	5	15	33.3
P Mitchell	3	9	33.3	B Fenton	5	22	22.7
A Jones	4	13	30.8	J A McCarthy	3	14	21.4
C Brooks	3	11	27.3	P Hide	8	43	18.6
J Gifford	19	71	26.8	M A Fitzgerald	7	39	17.9

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Fakenham: 2.10 Antiguan Flyer. 3.10 Lodestone Lad. Folkestone: 2.00 Prussian Eagle. 4.00 Rustic Gent. Southwell: 2.20 Noble Canonire. 2.50 Sarasi, Classic Victory. 4.20 Warp Drive.

Christopher Irvine predicts the winners and losers in the second Super League season

St Helens ready to reassert their claim to title deeds

SO FAR, the Super League has talked a good game. The real thing at Odsal tonight should not disappoint. No club puts on a show like Bradford and the Bulls are the emergent force in rugby league. In the bear-pit atmosphere generated by a crowd of more than 15,000, the expectation is that Warrington Wolves will be swallowed up, yet the same was said of Paris Saint-Germain on another heady night 12 months ago.

Paris memorably beat Sheffield Eagles in the inaugural Super League match before 17,000 delirious novices to the sport. Jacques Fouroux, once a national hero of French rugby union and the Paris president, hailed it as league's coming in France and described the evening as "beyond dreams".

It was also beyond reality and when the defeats piled up, Fouroux was off, accompanied by most of the French players. Paris, less romantically, is now a team of hard-nosed Australians.

Anticipation about the second summer season is at such a pitch that a fall is perhaps inevitable. The Super League itself is wide open and looks the most fascinating and best-balanced competition for the leading prize in the game in years.

The opportunities are greatest and the pitfalls at their most pronounced in the 22-team world club championship. The 12 European sides face enormous obstacles to make a success of their great adventure.

The fruition of the Super League vision in transglobal matches between June and October could become nightmarish for the European sides. There will be real scope for embarrassment in the matches in Australia and the European teams will be looking to make inroads in the home legs. However, it is asking a lot of even Bradford, St Helens and Wigan Warriors to perform week in, week out against sides of the calibre of Cronulla, Canberra and Brisbane.

There is little doubt that, in its jamboree form this season, the world club championship is a one-off wonder. By next year, the Super League in Australia and its rival organisation — the Australian Rugby League — are expected to have settled their differences and established one competition and a single national team again. It would almost certainly result in a scaled-down global club tournament, ahead of the 1998 World Cup, which would be no bad thing.

Notwithstanding the attractive nature of some of the fixtures, there is a contrivance about the protracted group stages. No matter what happens, Europe is guaranteed four quarter-finalists.

Were an English team, or teams, to advance further, that would be a breakthrough. So would beating the Australian Super League international side in a three-match home series in November, although that might be dreaming.

Rugby league in Australia is not only so strong that it can operate two domestic competitions this year, it has surplus talent to stock both Paris and London Broncos. The leftovers fill a sizeable proportion of squads at most English Super League clubs. By extending clubs' quotas to six overseas players (excluding developing nations), the potential damage to home-produced talent is incalculable.

This, nonetheless, is the year of breast-beating, noisy proclamations and, yet again, make or break. All the gung ho is strangely at odds with Wigan and their off-loading of the family silver. Supporters were only just recovering from the dismissal of Graeme West as coach and the sale of Va'aiga Tuigamala to Newcastle rugby union club when Central Park was sold last week to be redeveloped as a supermarket.

Wigan, under Eric Hughes, might yet withstand all their off-field problems and confound everyone, but they have to convince their most vehement critics — the supporters. St Helens and Bradford look better prepared and equipped for success. At St Helens, the confidence built by winning the Super League last year is a compelling reason to tip them for a repeat. Only Bradford, where there is a momentum that may be hard to resist, stand in Saints' way.

The middle ground is open for any team with ambition to fill. Salford have caught the enterprising spirit better than most after their promotion to the Super League.

John Cartwright is by far the best of the Australian imports, one of several gnarled forwards who can take Salford Reds a long way. Leeds Rhinos look rejuvenated, London less so. Castleford Tigers and Oldham Bears are destined to fight to avoid the one relegation place, while Warrington, like Paris a year ago, might just upset the applecart at Bradford tonight.

Kick-off time: representatives from each Super League team assembled yesterday

DES JENSON

RUGBY LEAGUE

1. Bradford Bulls (odds: 10-3)

Strong squad, best support and an attractive price. Capable of breaking St Helens-Wigan duopoly under Elliott's guidance off the field and Robbie Paul's on it.

Coach: Matthew Elliott (Aus), appointed September 1996.

Ground: Odsal (cap 27,000).

1996: Super League: 3rd. Challenge Cup: Runners-up. Premiership: Semi-finals

Transfers: In: P Anderson (Halifax), A Skoku (Halifax), M Hogue (N Queensland), D Peacock (S Queensland), T Reihana (N Queensland). Out: K Fairbank (retired), J Hamer (York), C Hassan (Keighley), D Longo (Swinton), J Tamani (Adelaide).

2. St Helens (6-5)

Expected to repeat last season's triumphs on basically the same formula. Bobbie Goulding, "Mr Inspirational", misses first four games through suspension. Probably unbeatable at home; possibly vulnerable in big away games.

Coach: Shaun McRae (Aus), Jan 1996.

Ground: Knowsley Road (19,300).

1996 season: Super League: Winners Challenge Cup: Winners. Premiership: Runners-up.

Transfer: In: J O'Neill (Auckland) Out: A Fogerty (released).

3. Wigan Warriors (7-4)

Hold too many aces to be discounted. Serious challengers again, although strength in depth not what it was

Coach: Eric Hughes (Eng), Feb 1997.

Ground: Central Park (24,000).

1996: Super League: Second. Challenge Cup: Fifth round. Premiership: Winners

Transfers: In: S Holgate (Workington), P Koloi (Canterbury, NZ), S Lester (Auckland), D Murray (Auckland), I Sherratt (Oldham) Out: A Craig (Swinton), M Dermott (Warrington), K Skerrett (Halifax), V Tuigamala (Newcastle RUFC)

4. Salford Reds (33-1)

"Dad's Army" have already marched into the Challenge Cup semi-finals.

Coach: Andy Gregory (Eng), March 1995.

Ground: The Willows (11,300).

1996: First division: Winners. Challenge Cup: Quarter-finals. Divisional premiership: Winners.

Transfers: In: J Cartwright (Penrith), E Faimalo and D Hulme (Leeds), G Gironella (Catalan), P Maitland (Bridgend RUFC), A Platt (Auckland) Out: A Davys (Huddersfield), S Hampson (Cannes), P Mansson (Hunslet), S Panapa (ret), R Webster (Bath RUFC), D Young (Cardiff RUFC).

5. Leeds Rhinos (16-1)

New team, old hopes.

Coach: Dean Bell (NZ), June 1995.

Ground: Headingley (26,000).

1996: Super League: Tenth. Challenge Cup: Semi-finals.

Transfers: In: R Blackmore (Auckland), W Collins (S Queensland), D Chapman, D Gibson and J Mathiou (all N Queensland), A Farrell, D Lawford and R Sheridan (all Sheffield), M Masella (Sydney Tigers), P Sterling (Hull). Out: D Clark (New Zealand), E Faimalo (Salford), M Forshaw (Saracens RUFC), P Gleadhill, P Handley and L Maher (all Featherstone), C Hall (Moseley RUFC), N Harmon (Huddersfield), H Howard (Sydney West), D Hulme (Salford), K Iro (Hunter Mariners), G Mann (Warrington, loan), M Schultz (Hull), A Tait (Newcastle RUFC), S Tuipulotu (Leeds RUFC)

6. London Broncos (16-1)

Significant departures at half back and will do well to repeat an encouraging first summer season. Interesting to see if home-grown talent impresses.

Coach: Tony Currie (Aus), Jan 1996.

Ground: The Stoop (10,000).

1996: Super League: Fourth Challenge Cup: Fourth round. Premiership: Semi-finals

Transfers: In: R Best (Manly), R Beazley (Illawarra), M Dunford (Manly), N Mardon (Boroughmuir RUFC), M Nable (Carlisle), A Spencer (Camb Univ), P Smith (Sydney East), J White (Illawarra). Out: G Allen (ret), R Allen (Brisbane Easts), E Cochrane and L Dynevor (Newcastle Knights), K Langer (Runaway Bay), D McRae (Canterbury), J Minto, J Paul, D Pitt, T Rae (all retired), D Shaw (Canberra), P Stevens (Rochdale), G Strutton (Brisbane Easts).

7. Warrington Wolves (33-1)

Wilderspool has become a mini South Pacific state. Impressive recruits in the Auckland trio of Tatupu, Vagana and Mead. Early injury worries, plus the habitual problem of Warrington flattering to deceive, inhibit their chances of success

Coach: John Dorahy (Aus), Jan 1996

Ground: Wilderspool (11,300)

1996: Super League: Fifth. Challenge Cup: Fifth Round

Transfers: In: M Dermott (Wigan), D Mead (Auckland), G Mann (Leeds, loan), A Tatupu (Auckland), N Vagana (Auckland). Out: M Jones (Ebbw Vale RUFC), J Lee (Pontypridd RUFC)

8. Halifax Blue Sox (50-1)

The loss of Steve Simms as coach, two weeks before the start of the season, has been unsettling. The estimable Hobbs, who has temporary charge, has some talented individuals to work with. Always dangerous but, then again, always vulnerable

Caretaker Coach: David Hobbs (Eng). Feb 1997.

Grounds: Thrum Hall (7,700), from July, The Shay (8,000).

1996: Super League: Sixth. Challenge Cup: Quarter-finals.

Transfers: In: E Attia (Cannes), E Anselme (Albi), D Bouveng (North Queensland), G Clarke (South Sydney), J Gusset (St Esteve), M Pearson (Featherstone), D Powell (Wakefield), K Skerrett (Wigan) Out: P Anderson (Bradford), A Ekoku (Bradford), S Ellis (Keighley), M Marondale (Wakefield), C Rika (Wakefield), R Southernwood (Wakefield).

9. Sheffield Eagles (200-1)

If the Eagles' price on the Stock Exchange is allied to the club's playing fortunes, new shareholders could be in for a roller-coaster ride this summer. Larder and John Kear are a wily coaching partnership, but, rather than achieving instant success, they will probably have to use the season as a building process

Coach: Phil Larder (Eng). Nov 1996.

Ground: Don Valley Stadium (25,000)

1996: Super League: Seventh. Challenge Cup: Fifth round.

Transfers: In: R Doyle (South Queensland), S Edmed (North Queensland), J Erba (South Queensland), W Flynn (Wakefield Trinity), S McCurrie (Widnes), W Margansson (North Queensland), N Pinkney (Keighley Cougars), W Taewa (North Queensland), M Wood (Keighley Cougars). Out: R Chapman (Featherstone Rovers), A Farrell (Leeds), M Gamson (Keighley Cougars), D Lawford (Leeds), I Hughes (Wakefield Trinity), P Picksley (Batley), R Sheridan (Leeds), J Dakuitoga (released), M Yasa (released).

10. Paris Saint-Germain (150-1)

Dubbed the "Wild Bunch" back home. The players that Australia did not want were parcelled off mob-handed to Paris. Shallow-looking squad, but tough, rough and capable of ruffling one or two reputations.

Coach: Peter Mulholland (Aus), Dec 1996

Ground: Charlety Stadium (22,000).

1996: Super League: Eleventh.

Transfers: In: T Bellamy (Perth), P Bergman (Hunter Mariners), J Durlen (Brisbane), J Eade (Perth), P Evans (Perth), A Hancock (South Sydney), N Hyde (North Sydney), K Jaavuo (France), J Keogh (Sydney Easts), D Lomax (Canberra), C Menkins (North Queensland), J Martin (North Queensland), M O'Connor (New South Wales RU), D O'Donnell (Manly), J Olejnik (Perth), A Peters (Canberra), A Priddle (Canterbury), J Robinson (Canberra), W Sing (North Queensland), J Taylor (Manly), S Vincent (Parramatta), A Wall (Australia)

11. Castleford Tigers (200-1)

The sad, remorseless decline of Castleford is likely to see them involved in a relegation battle this summer. They are a small town club still with pretensions, but the sport's "big city" takeover could claim a victim in once "Classy Cas".

Coach: John Joyner (Eng). May 1993.

Ground: Wheldon Road (11,750)

1996: Super League: Ninth Challenge Cup: Fourth round

Transfers: In: J Lidden (Canterbury), S McVean (Sydney Tigers), J Roach (Swinton), L St Hilaire (Huddersfield), A Vowles (North Queensland) Out: F Botica (Llanelli RUFC), J Coventry (Huddersfield), A Marchant (retired), J Paramore (Bedford RUFC)

12. Oldham Bears (150-1)

No more Watersheddings, but, by moving away from their hostile old home, Oldham have lost the one serious advantage that they had. Unless Andy Goodway can transform a thin squad comprising mostly of base metal talent, relegations looks likely.

Coach: Andy Goodway (Eng). May 1994.

Ground: Boundary Park (14,000)

1996: Super League: Eighth. Challenge Cup: Fourth round.

Transfers: In: V Fawcett (Workington), B Goldspink (Perth), L Goodwin (Perth), N Turner (South Queensland) Out: A Belle (Huddersfield), S Irwin (Featherstone), C Parr (Rochdale Hornets), I Sherratt (Wigan Warriors).

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE

£40,000 prizes to be won

Enter a team today for the Brazilian Grand Prix

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN MELBOURNE

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd H-H Frentzen 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th D Coulthard 23; 5th E Irvine 22; 6th M Hakkinen 21; 7th J Herbert 20; 8th J Alesi 19; 9th O Panis 18; 10th G Berger 17; 11th R Barrichello 16; 12th R Schumacher 15; 13th N Larini 14; 14th G Fishichella 13; 15th U Katayama 12; 16th S Nakano 11; 17th J Trulli 10; 18th M Salo 9; 19th J Magnussen 8; 20th D Hill 7. **Finishing points** (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st D Coulthard 60 points; 2nd M Schumacher 50; 3rd M Hakkinen 40; 4th G Berger 30; 5th O Panis 29; 6th N Larini 28; 7th S Nakano 27; 8th H-H Frentzen 26; 9th J Trulli 25; 10th P Diniz 24. (Only 10 finished). **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): D Coulthard 58 points; M Schumacher 58; M Hakkinen 58; G Berger 58; O Panis 58; N Larini 58; S Nakano 56; H-H Frentzen 55; J Trulli 55; P Diniz 54; R Barrichello 49; M Salo 42; J Magnussen 36; J Alesi 34; U Katayama 32; G Fishichella 14; J Verstappen 2; R Schumacher 1. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position** (3 points for each improved place): P Diniz 36 points; S Nakano 27; J Trulli 24; N Larini 21; G Berger 18; O Panis 12; M Hakkinen 9; D Coulthard 9; M Schumacher 3. **Fastest lap time of grand prix** : H-H Frentzen 10 points. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination during the race** (10 points deducted): J Villeneuve -10 points; E Irvine -10; J Alesi -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frentzen -10; J Herber t-10; M Salo -10; J Verstappen -10; U Katayama -10; R Schumacher -10; G Fishichella -10; J Magnussen -10. 8)
Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): D Hill -10 points.
Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.
CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): McLaren 30 points; Ferrari 25; Benetton 23; Prost 22; Sauber 21; Williams 19; Minardi 18; Arrows 17. **Penalty point** Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none.
Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Williams -20 points; Jordan -20; Tyrrell -20; Stewart -20; Ferrari -10; Benetton -10; Sauber -10; Minardi -10.
Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Arrows -10 points.
Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

The first results in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition, the points for the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, appear below. And there is still plenty of time to enter a team for the Brazilian Grand Prix – the first of six races which carry up to 600 bonus points for the team managers who can correctly predict any of the first three drivers to cross the finishing line. The top prize of £25,000, in association with the Marlboro World Championship Team, will go to the manager of the team which heads our leaderboard after the final race of the season, the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26. There are also two runners-up prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 to be won.

To enter choose six racing drivers and six constructors from the groups below. If you haven't already registered a team the lines are open until noon on Thursday, March 27 to enter to play before the Brazilian Grand Prix in Interlagos on March 30. You can also enter by fax or post. And, you can use our transfer lines to strengthen your team our check your position on our leaderboard as described below.

J Bell of Kettering, Northants, wins a trip for two to the Italian GP for scoring 816 points at the Australian GP with his team JLB Racing. I Pigeon, St Saviour, Jersey (Frank Scapegoat Racing FSR2), wins a Sony PlayStation and Porsche Challenge and Formula One CD-Rom games.

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

Figures in brackets represent the Fantasy Formular One scores achieved at the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne last Sunday

DRIVERS								CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP A				GROUP B				GROUP C		GROUP D	
01 D Hill	-3	07 M Hakkinen	128	13 O Panis	117	19 G Fishichella	17	25 Williams	-1	31 Arrows	7
02 M Schumacher	135	08 D Coulthard	150	14 J Verstappen	-8	20 S Nakano	121	26 Ferrari	15	32 Sauber	11
03 J Villeneuve	20	09 R Barrichello	55	15 U Katayama	34	21 N Larini	121	27 McLaren	30	33 Tyrrell	-20
04 E Irvine	12	10 H-H Frentzen	106	16 P Diniz	114	22 J Trulli	114	28 Benetton	13	34 Minardi	8
05 J Alesi	43	11 J Herbert	10	17 R Rosset	0	23 J Magnussen	34	29 Jordan	-20	35 Stewart	-20
06 G Berger	123	12 M Salo	41	18 R Schumacher	6	24 V Sospiri	0	30 Prost	22	36 Lola	0

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). ● *For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm*

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT The team manager heading *our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard* after the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26, will win **£25,000**. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up.

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS The manager of the team which scores the most points in the Brazilian Grand Prix will win a trip for two to British Grand Prix on July 13.

The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation with a Formula One and *Porsche* Challenge game worth £250.

PlayStation

TRANSFERS

If you've already entered a team you can change up to four selections before the Brazilian GP by calling 0891 555 994 (++44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday March 27. Your new team must comprise three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three selections you make will be deemed to be your prediction for the Brazilian GP bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the *24-hour checkline 0891 884 648* (Republic of Ireland 0044 990 100 348) and tapping in their 10-digit PIN number. The line currently carries all positions after the Australian Grand Prix and will be updated *again on Wednesday* April 2 after the Brazilian GP.

TO ENTER BY PHONE

Call our entry hotline on **0891 405 001** **(+44 990 100 311 outside the UK).** Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and # keys are Touch-tone).

Follow the instructions on the entry line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for *the grands prix where bonus points apply.* You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, *you need to speak these details). You will* receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this with your team details.

You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, March 27, to qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix.

BY POST/FAX

Complete the form, right, *with your 12 two-digit* selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd *and 3rd finishing places for* the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number to confirm your entry.

Or fax the form with your credit-card details to 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK).

To qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix, postal entries must arrive by first post Tuesday March 25, and faxed entries by noon on that day.

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £2.50 payable to *Fantasy Formula One, and post it to: The Times Fantasy Formula One,* Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Or fax it on 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK). *The closing date for receipt of this form to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix is first post Tuesday, March 25, 1997, and noon on that day for faxed entries.*

GROUPS A AND B DRIVERS

1st	2nd	3rd
☐☐	☐☐	☐☐
☐☐	☐☐	☐☐

GROUP C AND D CONSTRUCTORS

☐☐	☐☐	☐☐
☐☐	☐☐	☐☐

Team Name ....

Signature ....

Date ....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .... Initials ....
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Surname ....
Address ....
....
Postcode .... Daytime Tel ....
Credit Card Payment Card number:
☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐
Name on card ....
Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above
Signature .... TC

مكتبة الاهرام

CRICKET

South Africa face uphill task to avoid series defeat

FROM JACK BANNISTER IN PORT ELIZABETH

SOUTH African cricket has been plunged into a crisis by the wide margin of the defeat at the Wanderers in the first Test match, where Australia thrashed them by an innings and 196 runs.

It was a culture shock to a cricketing public that, thanks to careful planning of fixtures since their re-entry into Test cricket more than six years ago, has not seen its team lose a series at home.

Now, the media has turned on the team in a savage way that only, perhaps, followers of English cricket can understand. There have been calls for heads to roll and that is reflected in the probable side for the second Test match that begins here today. Out go the unlucky Andrew Hudson and Jonty Rhodes and, into the 13-man squad, come Herschelle Gibbs, Brian McMillan, who is fit again, and Pat Symcox, the off spinner.

McMillan, now recovered from a worrying left ankle ligament problem, plays and bats at No 7 in a game in that South Africa are desperate to avoid defeat. That would mean they could go into the final Test, at Centurion Park, Pretoria, next week, with a chance of avoiding defeat in the series.

The normally forward-thinking South African administration has erred in playing this series on pitches in Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria that, because of lack of pace and bounce, look like playing into the hands of a confident and well organised Australia side. Had a Test match been played on the grassy Kingsmead pitch, Allan Donald and company must have fared better.

After a brief day or so of parity in Johannesburg, the touring team got their teeth into the first Test and finished things off with a typical swagger thanks to outstanding performances from Glenn McGrath, Matthew Elliott, Steve Waugh, Greg Blewett, Shane Warne and Michael Bevan.

The problems of South Africa are twofold. A rejigged top order is inexperienced, with Adam Bacher opening the innings alongside an out-of-form Gary Kirsten, followed by Jacques Kallis at No 3, an out-of-touch Daryll Cullinan at No 4, and the tyro Gibbs at No 6.

In the bowling department Donald and Shaun Pollock are likely to have their teeth drawn for the second successive Test by a bland pitch that might be well grassed but looks to lack pace and bounce. If the conditions overhead are the same as at the Wanderers, it might be a good toss to lose.

The loss of fitness and form of Fanie de Villiers and Craig Matthews have made the home attack that much easier to dominate. Pollock has at least one gear to recover since an ankle operation last September, although he is expected to play ahead of Lance Klusener.

Their only fitness doubt concern for Australia is Mark Taylor, the captain, whose long-standing back problem flared up in East London a week ago. He is expected to play in an unchanged side, which means that Paul Reiffel, who would have played in Johannesburg but for a hamstring injury, will again give way to Jason Gillespie even though he is now fit again.

Not the least fascinating aspect of an intriguing Test match, is how the home side responds to the criticism heaped upon them after the first Test. As Corporal Jones of Dad's Army fame often said: "They don't like it up 'em, Sir". Nor do they.

SOUTH AFRICA (from) W J Cronje (captain), G Kirsten, A M Bacher, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, H H Gibbs, B M McMillan, S M Pollock, D J Richardson, P L Symcox, A A Donald, P R Adams, L Klusener

AUSTRALIA (probable). M A Taylor (captain), M L Hayden, M T G Elliott, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G S Blewett, M G Bevan, I A Healy, S K Warne, J N Gillespie, G D McGrath

Bevan: outstanding

Past triumph offers India inspiration

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

INDIA return to Port of Spain, Trinidad, the scene of one of their greatest victories, for the second Test with West Indies starting today. Set 403 to win by Clive Lloyd on their 1975-76 tour, India scored 406 for four, the highest fourth-innings total made to win a Test.

One of Sunil Gavaskar's 34 Test hundreds helped to carry the day and the present side will be looking for similar inspiration from their batting champion, Sachin Tendulkar, if history is to repeat itself.

Tendulkar, the captain, failed in the drawn first Test at Sabina Park, Kingston, as did two other senior players, Sidhu and Azharuddin, but India still got within 81 of the West Indies first-innings total of 427 on a slow, low pitch that gave little encouragement to bowlers or strokemakers.

India are likely to be unchanged but the West Indies have called up the Trinidad bowler, Mervyn Dillon, as cover for Ian Bishop, who has a hamstring strain. Brian Lara's home public will be looking for something special from the left-handed batsman, who looked in good touch in Kingston where he scored 83 and 73.

The Sri Lanka coach, Bruce Yardley, was looking for a much-improved performance from his players in the second Test with New Zealand in Hamilton after their defeat by an innings and 36 runs in Dunedin, where batsmen gave their wickets away, the bowlers were off target and the fielding was poor.

"Our batsmen will have to show more responsibility and control," Yardley said, adding that the players were confident of turning the tables. "They were in a similar position in Pakistan last year but came back to win the second Test. They are quite adamant they can win this one."

Stephen Fleming is hoping to become the first New Zealand captain since Jeremy Coney in 1986 to win two Tests in a series. He expects the fast bowler, Heath Davis, to play after recovering from knee and Achilles tendon injuries. In the nets yesterday Davis bowled seven overs at close to full pace without apparent discomfort.

The Hamilton pitch has a reputation for aiding pace bowlers but Fleming admitted that he was puzzled after his inspection. "I expected it to be greener than it is," he said. "It is far from obvious that three seamers will be needed, but the nature of our squad means we have all the options covered."

Yardley confessed: "I don't know what to make of it, although it does look a bit rough in some places."

JOSÉ MANUEL RIBEIRO

Ballesteros plays out of the sand during his first round at Aroeira yesterday

Phillips ties up the market

FROM MEL WEBB IN LISBON

GOLFERS on the PGA European Tour come in all shapes and sizes and their dress code is almost as variable; they differ from sharply tailored to Yuppie-weekend chinos and casual polo shirts. Vanslow Phillips, a young professional from Slough, while a little like both sets, is unique in one respect — he is the only player on tour who goes to work wearing a tie.

It would be pleasant to be able to report that Phillips, who finished the first round of the Portuguese Open at Aroeira yesterday on 67, five under par and two shots behind Peter O'Malley and one adrift of Max Anglert, dons the neckwear out of respect for the past, when real golfers wore not only a tie but a suit as well. The truth, though, is a little more prosaic and it all has to do with money, lovely money.

Phillips, 24, a former Walker Cup amateur, has a deal with the tie retailer whose wares are to be seen in almost every high street and most of the airports of the United Kingdom. He met the company's chairman, Roy Bishko, two years ago. Bishko obviously liked the young man's style and promptly signed him up.

Written into the contract is the stipulation that Phillips will play in a tie. Furthermore, he completes his ensemble with a long-sleeved shirt. "I could wear one with short sleeves, but it doesn't look right," he said. "If you are going to do it, you might as well do it properly." Quite so.

He now has a sizeable collection of the company's finest silk products — yesterday's was a snappy number in yellow. Today, he said, he might pull a red one from his wardrobe. Watch out for further fashion reports.

Sartorial considerations aside, only O'Malley and Anglert of his unencumbered rivals outscored Phillips, who, starting at the 10th, reached the turn in 32 with four birdies and added three more on the second nine. Two misses from six feet brought him bogeys at the 4th and 8th, but it was still a satisfactory piece of work.

On a day on which José María Olazábal had a 70 in his second comeback tournament after 18 months' absence and the embattled Severiano Ballesteros made a modest improvement with a 73, O'Malley had five birdies to turn in 31. Two more birdies coming back completed a faultless round.

Phillips, meanwhile, is sure of being here at the weekend whatever he scores today — the field on the last two days will comprise the leading 65 and ties. Get it?

Montgomerie leads

COLIN MONTGOMERIE enhanced his prospects of a long-awaited breakthrough in the United States by ignoring a torrential rainstorm to set the first-round target in the Honda Classic at Heron Bay, Fort Lauderdale, yesterday (a Correspondent writes).

He had five birdies in a round of 68, four under par, to move alongside Billy Ray Brown and Greg Kraft, both of the United States, while his Ryder Cup team-mates, Ian Woosnam and Bernhard Langer, also moved into contention with rounds of 70.

Montgomerie has laboured long and hard for his first win on the US PGA Tour, having been a runner-up in the US Open, the PGA Championship and the prestigious Players Championship. "This is the first time I've led in America since the 1994 US Open. I didn't win that one, but maybe it is time for my luck to change," he said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

England grateful for Allcock's surge

ENGLAND, who yesterday added a 113-108 win over Wales at Ballymoney to the 126-102 victory against Ireland on Wednesday, are well placed to regain the Hilton Trophy from Scotland, who have held the British team bowls title for the past six years (David Rhys Jones writes). However, a narrow victory for the Scots over England this afternoon would give Wales a chance of taking the title for the first time since 1981 — if they can beat Ireland by a decent margin.

After lowering Scotland's colours on Wednesday, Wales were only two shots behind England with six ends remaining, but a count of five from Tony Allcock's rink put England in the clear. Andy Thomson, Greg Harlow and David Ward won for England, while Jason Greenslade and Mark Anstey replied for Wales. Allcock and David Weale, who had overwhelmed Robert Provan, of Scotland, finished level at 23-23.

Richardson reward

TENNIS: Andrew Richardson, 23 today, was given a premature birthday present yesterday when he was included in the five-strong Great Britain squad for the Davis Cup tie against Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre from April 4 to 6. Richardson, a 6ft 7in left-hander from Lincolnshire, has been selected with Tim Henman, Greg Rusedski, Neil Broad and Mark Petchey for the Euro-African zone, group one tie. The winners will go forward to the world group qualifying round from September 19 to 21.

Harrison opens in style

GOLF: Philip Harrison, 39, of England, had an opening round of 65, six under par, yesterday to take a one-stroke lead after the first day's play at the Kenyan Open in Nairobi. The runner-up last year to Mike Miller, of Scotland, Harrison used his experience and knowledge of the course at the Muthaiga Golf Club and sent out an early warning to the young contenders from the European Challenge tour. Harrison's back nine of 31 was the best of the field with birdies on the last four holes. Miller opened with a 67.

Seizinger's super finish

SKIING: Katja Seizinger, of Germany, won the last women's super giant slalom of the season in Vail, Colorado, yesterday, but Hilde Gerg, her compatriot, who finished second in the race, won the overall World Cup title in the discipline. Seizinger won in 1min 15.73sec, comfortably ahead of Gerg and Martina Ertl in a German clean sweep of the top three places. Isolde Kostner, of Italy, the super giant slalom world champion, and Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, the overall World Cup champion, both crashed.

Syed starts favourite

TABLE TENNIS: Andrea Holt and Matthew Syed are the favourites to win the singles titles at the English national championships, which start today at the Brighton Centre. Syed, 27, from Reading, is expected to meet Alan Cooke, who will be seeking his fourth title, in the men's final. Lisa Lomas, the England No 1, has pulled out because of commitments with her club in Germany, leaving Holt, from Manchester, seeking her fourth national title. England squad youngsters will pose threats in both competitions.

Spain reach final

HOCKEY: Spain reached the final of the men's World Cup qualifying tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday by beating New Zealand 5-1. Javier Arnau struck twice in the opening six minutes to set up the victory and Spain will meet the winners of the tie between South Korea and Poland in the final tomorrow. Ireland suffered a 4-0 defeat against South Africa in the first of the play-off matches for positions nine to 12 and will now play Belarus, who lost 2-0 to Switzerland, for eleventh place

Leo O'Brien

CRICKET: Leo O'Brien, the former Australia Test batsman — one of only two survivors of the Bodyline tour by England in 1932-33 — has died at the age of 89. Sir Donald Bradman is the only Australian survivor of the series. O'Brien made his debut in the second Test of the series and played in five Tests, scoring 211 runs at an average of 26.38. He was run out for ten in the first innings of the Melbourne Test and was bowled by Harold Larwood for 11 in the second innings. He was dropped until the fifth Test.

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan travelling in comfort

FROM PHIL YATES
IN BANGKOK

THOUGH not equalling the level of sustained excellence that carried him to victory over Steve Davis in the previous round, Ronnie O'Sullivan reached the semi-finals of the Thailand Open with some ease by beating Stephen Lee 5-3 here last night.

This was more a showcase for O'Sullivan's audacious potting skills than his break-building. In fact, the most sustained contribution was a run of 106 from Lee in the seventh frame. He had the opportunity to supersede a 140 total clearance by Anthony Hamilton for the £5,000 highest-break award until he missed the final red.

Having already triumphed at the Asian Classic and German Open this season, O'Sullivan is only two wins away from prevailing at three of the four overseas world-ranking tournaments staged this season.

O'Sullivan will next meet Peter Ebdon, who inflicted a rare 5-0 whitewash on John Parrott. The comprehensive victory meant that Ebdon has conceded only four frames in his three matches in the competition so far.

Ebdon, bogged down for much of the season, was considerably speedier than of late when in scoring position and this conscious attempt to promote a greater degree of fluency paid dividends with breaks of 59, 60, 47 and 75 in the first four frames.

RUGBY UNION

Walton ideally equipped for heavyweight contest

Mark Souster meets the Englishman who has beefed up Scotland's forward play

IN THE battle of wits that is international rugby, where coaches seek to maximise the slightest advantage or exploit the merest hint of weakness, the role of the sports psychologist is only now being appreciated.

It may not be coincidence that this season Dr Richard Cox, who works with the Scotland team, had only been involved in the build-up to the international against Ireland. Peter Walton, who wins his tenth cap against France in the five nations' championship match in Paris tomorrow, his second at No 8, was an initial sceptic but a ready convert. "He does make a huge difference," he said.

Before that Ireland game, Cox asked each player to conjure in his mind the image of someone who had had a significant influence on his career. Walton named Wayne Shelford, the former New Zealand captain and No 8. To the amiable Geordie and former England Colt, who qualifies for Scotland through residency as a boarder at Merchiston Castle School, Shelford, with whom he played at Northampton, was an inspiring figure.

"I wouldn't have got into the Scotland squad in 1994 if it hadn't been for him." Walton said. "Before the game at Murrayfield [against Ireland] I was thinking how he used to play, the things he would do and that gave me huge confidence."

Switching roles with Rob Wainwright was not a totally alien experience. Walton had been a regular No 8 in his first spell with what was then Newcastle Gosforth, where his sheer size enabled him to plunder tries. At 6ft 3in and 18½ stone, Walton has given Scotland a different dimension at the base of the scrum.

For a man who still works part-time as a lifestock fieldsman, beef, an excess of it, has been a problem. Once his sobriquet was "Ten Bellies": indeed, when Rob Andrew recruited him for Newcastle, he said he wished he could transfer some of Walton onto the comparatively skeletal Doddie Weir to produce "two perfect rugby players". Walton laughed. "I would like to think my fighting weight is 18 stone," he said. "I am as fit as I have ever been. But if I lost half a stone, or maybe a stone, I might have more speed. But having two knee operations hasn't helped."

Although only 27, Walton accepts that he could be playing on borrowed time. The seriousness of the injury to his right knee interrupted a career that had started brightly in 1994. A surgeon's skill allowed him to return for the 1995 World Cup, but it had only ever been a holding operation and more drastic surgery was needed thereafter, which included having his kneecap sliced open.

"I was thinking this might be it. That's one of the reasons I moved back up north," he said. "I felt I would rather be miserable in my own area than miserable down south at Northampton. I enjoyed my rugby there but I couldn't stick living down there. It was too busy for my liking."

So what will he make of the madhouse that doubles as Parc des Princes? "I've heard it's a bit of a noisy place, but I do enjoy atmosphere like that," he said. "France are going for the grand slam and are expecting to beat us. We won't be overawed. We've won the past two five nations' games against them and our confidence is up again after Ireland. As Doc Cox would say, it's all about being in the right frame of mind."

Walton: tenth cap

SQUASH

Lingfield falter in title chase

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

ELLIS Lingfield's plan to secure the Super Squash League title through the services of Rodney Eyles, the world No 2, and Peter Nicol, the No 3, went awry at home this week when the lofty pair contrived to lose in the defeat by Dunraven Maesteg.

Eyles, of Australia, has been closer than any other player this year to matching Jansher Khan, the world champion, beating him in Hong Kong and pressing to within a single point of his world-rankings leadership. Yet he was beaten 9-6, 9-7, 2-9, 8-10, 9-6 by Mark Cairns, the British champion ranked 11 places below him.

Nicol, the young Scot whose defence of the Mahindra title in Bombay in December deprived Eyles of the world No 1 ranking, lost 9-2, 9-7, 9-5 to Paul Gregory, ranked two places lower than Cairns.

The international flavour of the Welsh win was completed by the defeat of Tim Garner, the Lingfield captain, by Craig van der Wath, from South Africa, the Maesteg third string.

Maesteg go to the top of the table having played all their matches, but Eyles and Nicol still have the chance of carrying their team to the championship — in the closest final round on record — if they can help to defeat ICL Lionl Herts, the second-placed defending champions, in Welwyn Garden City next week.

BADMINTON

Arbi provides spectacular proof of return to fitness

BY RICHARD EATON

HERYANTO ARBI, the Indonesian whose acrobatic smashing earned him two memorable All England Open championships and the nickname "Jumping Jack", is fit again and in with a fighting chance of his third title in five years at the Yonex-sponsored tournament at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Arbi, the world champion, has suffered from back and calf injury problems in recent months and has slipped down the rankings to No 17, but he showed patches of his best form in winning 8-15, 15-9, 15-6 against Luo Yigang, an unseeded Chinese player.

On the opening day, Luo outlasted the Essex-based world championship bronze medal-winner from Denmark, Thomas Stuer. When he also won the first game from Arbi, capturing nine successive points from 6-8 down, it seemed that he might overcome an even more illustrious opponent, but, almost as if flicking a switch, Arbi changed from a casual strolling player to one of electrifying brilliance. He began to force the pace, produced tighter net shots and, when he got Luo to lift from the net, scored regularly with smashes. His play suggested that his fitness may not be far from its best.

Arbi's weakness was his wandering mind. It had allowed him to slip to a game down and 9-3 down in the second round against Mark Constable, of England, on Wednesday and, even now, there were strange lapses that allowed his opponent back from 3-9 to 7-9 in the second game and from 2-10 to 5-10 in the third. Nevertheless, Arbi left no doubt as to who is the most spectacular player in the tournament.

Another Chinese, Dong Jiong, the Olympic Games silver medal-winner, reached the semi-finals in the top half of the draw. After a tight first game, his speed of foot and tremendous reflexes frustrated Peter Rasmussen 15-12, 15-8. The day before, after beating the former world champion, Joko Suprianto, the Danish left-hander had boasted that he was good enough to win the All England title. Repeated attempts to penetrate Dong's defences proved him wrong.

Another world champion, Ye Xhaoying, also reached the semi-finals. She did so with such a comfortable 11-7, 11-1 win over Kim Ji-Hyun that it was hard to believe the South Korean had eliminated her at the Olympics. Then, the Chinese player was riddled with nerves; now, her overhead drop shots and net play made her seem a calm front-runner for her first All England title.

CHARLIE BIBBY

Arbi hits a trademark smash during his win yesterday

Results, page 45

Milking the herd instinct at Upton Park

LYNNE TRUSS

Kicking and Screaming

Waiting 26 minutes for the first goal can, of course, be pretty exciting sometimes. There can be heroics to watch: great passes, goalmouth scuffles, bookings, broken legs, all sorts. On Wednesday night at Upton Park, however, a sense of deliberate unreality pervaded both the pitch and the virtually silent stadium.

Had 24,500 people mistakenly bought tickets for a walk-through rehearsal of a future match? Had managerial pep-talks been experimentally banned? The crowd was subdued, the football (West Ham United v Chelsea) humdrum. It was odd, I can tell you, to pay £27 for a ticket and then derive excitement from dropping my pencil. Sometimes I pay nothing at all to do that at home.

"Mr Brian Moon is *in* the stadium," the Tannoy announced, carefully, during this tepid period. Naturally, one's ears pricked up. Brian Moon, eh? Sounded like a security code — perhaps for a bomb, or an unstoppable gas leak. Women are alert to such coy personifications because our euphemisms for menstruation include "Auntie Flo has come to stay" and "The redcoats are on the march." This Brian Moon sounded interesting. But minutes later came the crushing news — "Mr Brian Moon has *left* the stadium" — so even that tiny hope of extraneous *interest was obliged to fade.*

We needed a goal, we really did. West Ham, the more willing team, seemed lost in fog. Chelsea, meanwhile, without Leboeuf, Newton or Duberry, and with Di Matteo and Mark Hughes on the bench, were playing like an idling Ferrari held up on a country lane by a herd of cows. In fact, the only excellence visible on the pitch in this uncomfortable overture period was the grass itself. Most Premiership teams are playing on levelled muck and bullets at this stage in the season. What does it say about West Ham that their surface is hardly scratched? But then, finally, Chelsea scored. West Ham's Ian Bishop (substituted at half-time) carelessly passed a long ball straight to Zola. Whoops. "*Try NOT pass ball ZOLA*" was probably the first point listed on the blackboard in the West Ham dressing-room that night, but in a lax moment Bishop had forgotten. Zola, barely pausing to say: "Now, I don't think you meant to do that," sped off, head down, decoyed the goalkeeper's attention, then passed to a finely accelerating Vialli. "*Watch out Z, esp when + V*" was the second point on that blackboard, but who can remember complicated stuff like that when the chips are down?

'Why do they play better on telly?'

Well, the game came alive, thank goodness. More precisely, the fog lifted *from West Ham. Unfortunately*, Chelsea's own herd of Jersey milkers proved the more stubborn obstacle, continuing to moo and amble and defecate on their fancy bonnet until virtually the end of the match. Crucially, perhaps, the West Ham players were reminded that they had either a lot to gain (by winning), or a lot to lose (by losing), and were additionally warned by Harry Redknapp, their manager, at half-time that he would blame them all personally if he ended up with the sack.

So they got stuck in and the crowd cheered up. They started the second half 1-0 down, scored a penalty (Dicks, 53min) and an excellent goal (Kitson, 68min) and discovered a *surprising, not to say delusive, level* of self-belief.

The blurry scoreboard, noticeably reluctant to show the scoreline while Chelsea were leading, was suddenly more than proud to be of service. "One-way traffic" is what they call it on telly when a match goes like that. It's one of the top six FA-approved metaphors.

Kitson was the hero of the night — just as Newcastle United are kicking themselves for letting him go, too. After Chelsea equalised in the 86th minute (a balletic header by Mark Hughes *from a heart-stopping, soaring* ball by Scott Minto), the struggle seemed to be over, with Chelsea's dignity restored and West Ham's honour satisfied. However, Kitson scored a clincher in the 89th minute, and by that single act lifted West Ham out of the relegation zone for the first time in what felt like 75 years. It was not a glorious victory, but the way I look at it, if you have to queue for 45 minutes for the Tube afterwards (with 24,499 people you would rather avoid), it's better to have five goals to think about than four.

'Ruud Gullit should show more emotion'

We never did find out who Mr Brian Moon was, the manner of whose leaving was as mysterious (but evidently as important) as his arrival. But West Ham certainly had a little *visitation on Wednesday night* that transformed their game. Personally, I feel I may be a jinx on both of these London teams, having seen West Ham play badly at both Tottenham Hotspur and *Sheffield Wednesday*, and having been cruelly disappointed by Chelsea at both Blackburn Rovers and Nottingham Forest. Why do they *always play so much* better on the telly?

I have a theory, incidentally, that the sphinx-like Ruud Gullit should show more emotion on the touchline, to assure his players that he cares. I always feel *sorry* for them, hoping eagerly for approval and receiving none, like poor little Jane Eyre rebuffed for wanting a bit of a cuddle while at school. Why does he do this to them? Sang-froid can't be a Dutch thing, it's French. Gullit carries his emotions as gingerly as mercury on a tray and I can't help wishing someone would occasionally knock his arm.

RADIO CHOICE

A slings and arrows life

Messages to Myself. *Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.*

You couldn't exactly describe as bliss the 60 years Margaret Wheeler (still living) was married to Charles (departed). Extracts from her diaries, read by *Elaine Claxton*, reveal that he expected her to do nothing but household chores. He derided her six-year correspondence with George Bernard Shaw, calling him "ga-ga" and "old bugwhiskers". When she tried her hand at pottery, he said one artefact looked like "elephant turd". She, not he, had to get out of bed during a storm to shut a banging coalhouse door. She returned to a *locked bedroom* door which she had to open with an axe. During their epistolary years, Shaw praised her as a *born writer*. His judgment is confirmed by today's diary extracts, supplemented by the 88-year-old's spoken memories.

Kaleidoscope Feature: The Curse of the Cassette. *Radio 4, 9.30pm*

More a damned nuisance than a curse, actually. I recognise the problems: cassettes on which I had *forgotten to write* a label, accidentally wiping out something, not being able to find the exact bit I want to play. Even cassette addicts like Tony Benn, whose recorded diaries run to more than 200 million words, admit to coming to grief sometimes. If it's even more statistics you want, here are some eye-openers: two billion blank cassettes sold every year, one billion pre-*recorded tapes, six billion pirated copies.* Luckily, Nick Baker's *Kaleidoscope Feature* is not too technical.

Peter Davalle

BOXING

Universities square up for bout of century

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

THE boxing rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge Universities has endured a century with neither institution gaining the upper hand. Tonight at the Guild Hall, Cambridge, perhaps one side will squeeze home the victors of the first 100 years. The score stands at 43-43 with three draws, ten encounters being lost during two world wars.

The first fully recognised match between the teams was at Oxford in 1897, when the fixture also included fencing. In more recent times, the university clubs have survived despite lack of funds, falling membership and opposition from anti-boxing groups.

Throughout the 100 years, the match has only once been held outside the universities, in 1937, when the fixture was *moved to the Stadium Club*, Holborn, the same ring in which George Carpentier knocked out Bombadier Billy Wells in 1913 "in less time than it took the Prince of Wales to *put his coat under his seat*," as a wit of the day put it.

Thanks to men such as Robert Nairac, who saved the Oxford club from disbandment in 1969, and the present two senior treasurers, Tim Fell at Oxford and Howard Raingold at Cambridge, who have brought in money from sponsors, boxing is enjoying a revival at both universities.

Last night the newly formed Oxford alumni association held its first dinner to celebrate the hundred years. Among the many stories that regaled the diners, one that caused much amusement dated from 1949. Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, on seeing the Cambridge middleweight, Jimmy Blatch, snap to attention when his name was called in the ring, remarked: "That's *how I like to see them.*" Seconds later Reg Severn had knocked out the Cambridge man and an Oxford second, passing Montgomery on his way back to the dressing-room, could not resist tapping the great man on the shoulder and saying: "And that's how *we* like to see them!"

The Cambridge team from 1899 in the days when the fixture comprised both boxing and fencing contests

Perhaps Cambridge will have the last laugh tonight by ending the Oxford run of 11 successive victories. Cambridge have been training hard to halt the Oxford advance and turned this year to the England boxing squad for inspiration. Recently they *spent a weekend with the* England party at Crystal Palace. "It sharpened us up tremendously," Dave Freeland, their captain, said.

While Oxford have only one Blue in Mike Pokrass at welterweight, Cambridge have two, Freeland, the captain, at featherweight, and Richard Platt, a lightweight.

Even though most of the students learn to throw their first punch in the university gym, the 40 or so members who stay on after the first freshers' arrival reach a standard that is not in any way inferior to that of the boxers of *the 1940s and 1950s, who had* several years of school and club experience.

Percy Lewis, the former Empire featherweight champion, who has been one of the coaches at Oxford for many years, said: "We teach them the ABC first — jab, the left lead and right cross. They seldom reach XYZ but by the time of the Varsity match they are certainly at MNOP."

Oxford and Cambridge have produced some outstanding boxers recently, such as Frank Copplestone, the Oxford light-heavyweight, and Eliot Giuralarocca, the Oxford lightweight, though the pedigree of Cambridge's legendary John Hopley (1903) and Eddie Eagan, the Rhodes scholar at Oxford (1923), has never been equalled.

It was said of Hopley's Cambridge team, who won every contest that year by knocking out their Oxford opponents, that they could have lifted the Amateur Box*ing Association titles* as well. Eagan, who won the 1920 Olympic light-heavyweight gold medal for the United States, is best remembered for the spectacular achievement in 1923 of knocking out his Cambridge opponents, S. F. Meikle (light-heavyweight) and D. A. D. Simpson (heavyweight) one after another in the same ring on the same night. Eagan later became commissioner of the New York State Athletic Commission.

Oxford is a dynamic club and will be hard to beat. In the hands of Fell it has become probably the best-run university sports club in the country. It has sound finances, an excellent committee, five coaches, a publicity officer and does not have to rely on dinner *shows to make money.*

John Roycroft, the head of the department of sport at Iffley Road, said: "When you have an enthusiastic senior treasurer, the sport succeeds. The club is run in the professional, with a small p, manner, but with commitment with a capital C. At this rate it could go on thriving for another 100 years."

ALAN WELLER

Graham Greenway coaches Freeland, of Cambridge

Belt drives Rhodes in title defence

RYAN RHODES will be attempting to win a Lonsdale Belt outright in record time when he defends his British light-middleweight title against *Del Bryan*, of Nottingham, at the Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading, tonight (Srikumar Sen writes).

This is Rhodes's second defence and if he is successful the belt will automatically become his; the record of 95 days, which is held by Michael Eyres, of Tooting, would be broken by five days.

Rhodes should have no trouble beating Bryan. The Sheffield man already has a points win over the challenger. Even though the margin in that six-round encounter last September was only half a point, Rhodes believes that Bryan *will not* be able to stand up to him this time.

According to the champion, the scoring did not truly reflect the bout and he intends to underline his superiority by *stopping Bryan this time.* "Since then I have matured. I will knock him out," Rhodes said.

He certainly looked impressive when he dispatched Peter Waudby, of Hull, in one round 18 days ago. Bryan, 30, is a former British welterweight champion but he is beginning to look battle-weary.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

ALOPECIA

(b) Baldness. Such pompous medical terms for a simple condition can be properly used in lay conversation. "My husband's alopecia is very bad this morning, I am afraid, Mr Merryweather. So I am afraid that I cannot get to the office before about 11.30."

GLASSITES

(c) Batty sectarians, also known as Sandemanians. They *believed that justifying faith is no more than a simple assent* (ascent?) to the divine testimony passively received by the understanding. Before you scream "Meaningless Rubbish!", remind yourself that Michael Faraday was one of their number.

BANDOLINE

(c) A strong-smelling unguent for the hair: much like the famous Honey and Flowers mixture. Alleged to be made from boiled *quince pips. This seems intrinsically implausible* and black propaganda by Messrs Truefitt & Hill. Why *quince* pips? "Hooray! Why Henry, that Bandoline of yours makes its presence felt right across the square and above the atmosphere of the Pernod and Polecat Pizza Parlour."

SUPEREROGATION

(a) Superfluity. Something over and above what is needed. Works of *supererogation* are good deeds over and above the call of duty.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Bxb2+! 2 Kxb2 Qf6+ and White collapses.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **7.00** Pete Tong: Essential Selection **10.00** One In the Jungle **12.00** Comic Relief Live from the Ministry of Sound **3.00am** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Paths of Inspiration (2/5) **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night. A live concert from Leeds Town Hall featuring the BBC Concerto Orchestra under Martin Yates **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** Joan Bakewell **12.05am** Sue McGarry

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The *Breakfast Programme* **9.00** *The Magazine* **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Alan Green's Sportstalk **8.30** Friday Sport Robin Bailey on the start of the 1997 Super League season as Bradford Bulls take on Warrington Wolves. Plus the rest of the weekend's *sport* **10.00** *Paper Talk. Brian Alexander* and Nick Higham review the top news and sport stories in this week's press **11.00** News Extra with David McNeil **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Richard Dallyn, including at **3.45** Entertainment News

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. News on the hour. *5.30am* Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Red Dwarf **7.30** The Missionaries **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **8.45** Soundbyte **9.05** Business **9.15** Focus on Faith **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Red Dwarf **11.30** Meridian Books **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** *Science in Action* **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Soundbyte **3.30** Music Review **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** *Business* **5.45** Sport **6.30** *Focus on Faith* **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** Business **9.15** *Britain Today* **9.30** *People and Politics* **10.30** The New Europe **10.45** Sport **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Insider's Guide **11.25** Book Choice **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Seven Days **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Science in Action **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian **4.30** Jazz Now and Then **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Schumann (Violin Concerto in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic *Newsnight, with John Brunning* **7.30** Sonata. Mozart (Piano sonata No 13 in B flat major) **8.00** Evening Concert. Tchaikovsky (1812 Overture Op 49); Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor); Mozart (Eine Kleine Nachtmusik); Beethoven (Symphony No 2 in D major, Op 36) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

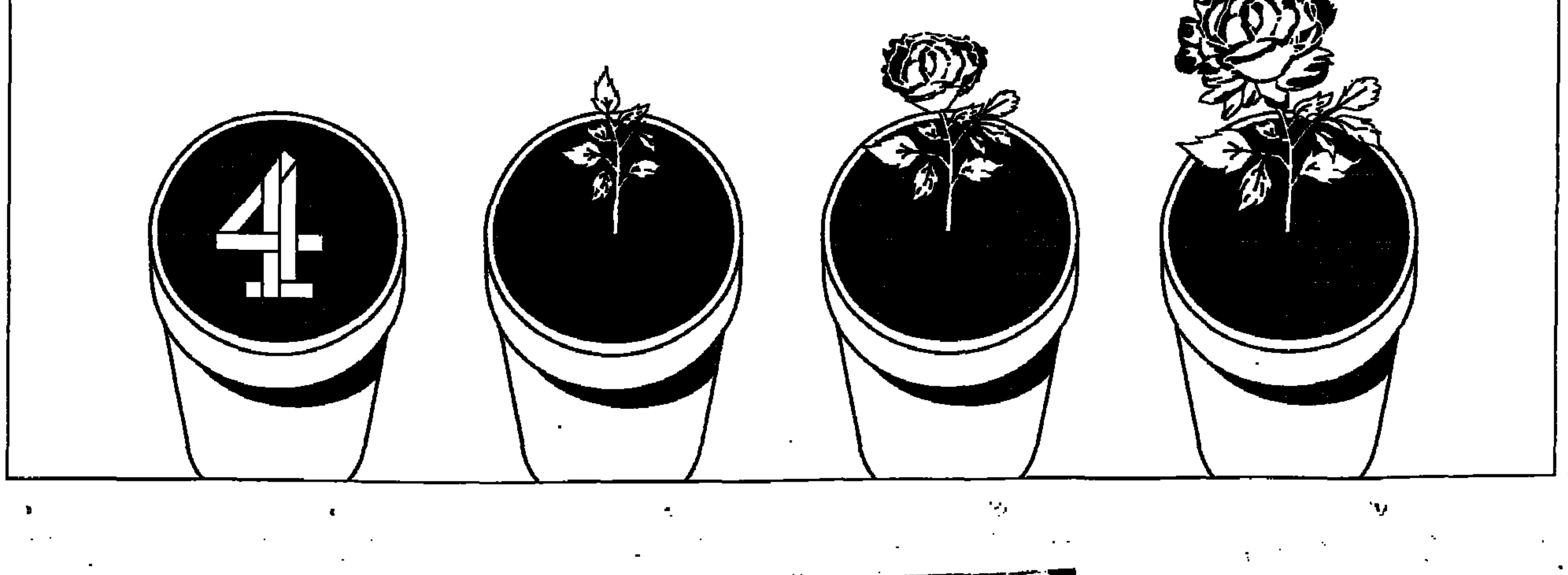
6.00am On Air. Includes Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 7); Couperin (Ritratto Dell'Amore); Alfven (Swedish Rhapsody No 3); Stamitz (Symphony in G, Op 13 No 4); Koechin (Sonatina No 2); Malcolm Arnold (Sussex Overture), Falla (Cancion); Verdi (La Primavera); Bach (Singet dan Herrn)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Haydn (Te Deum in C); Bach (French Suite No 5 in G); Handel (Concerto Grosso in B flat, Op 6 No 7); Sibelius (Tapiola)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Fiona Talkington. Includes Glazunov (Finnish Fantasia); Garbarek (He Comes from the North); Lutoslawski (Funeral Music); Gade (Overture: Gjenklang of Ossian); Poulenc (Concerto for two pianos); Reynolds (Romanza)
12.00 Composers of the Week: Campra, Clerambault and Monteclair
1.00pm News; Chamber Music from Manchester. Introduced by Rodney Slatford. Montsalvatge (Berceuse); Ravel (Valses Nobles et Sentimentales); Granados (Quejas O la Maya y el Ruisenor, Goyescas); Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit)
2.00 Mozart. Ballet music: Idomeneo. Performed by the Prague Chamber Orchestra under Bretislav Novotny
2.15 Music Restored: Women in Early Music (3/4) (r)
3.00 Mining the Archive Gordon Stewart introduces performances by Irmgard Seefried. Includes music by Mozart, Brahms and Wolf
5.00 Music Machine. From the Lake District. Tommy Pearson listens to the pupils of the Queen Katherine School as they put together a dance tune
5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green Includes Beethoven (Variations on Une Fiere Brulante); Ravel (Shéhérazade, excerpt); Wieniawski (Scherzo-Tarantelle), Grieg (Holberg Suite)
7.30 Clocks and Clouds. Members of the Philharmonia under Esa-Pekka Salonen. Includes Solage (*Joleux de Cuer*); Machaut (Douce Dame Jolie), Grimace (Se Zephirus/Se Jupiter); Ligeti (Aventures; Nouvelles Aventures)
9.00 First Draft Pieces: To Bahia and Beyond. Poets Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell conclude their journey from the east coast of Brazil to the Amazon rainforest
9.25 Maxence Larrieu. Flute recital. Bach (Sonata in A minor); Telemann (Fantasias: No 6 in D minor; No 2 in A *minor; No 10 in F sharp* minor); C.P.E Bach (Sonata in A minor)
10.00 Hear and Now. Includes Cornelius Cardew (Material); David Bedford (Two Poems for Chorus); Morton Feldman (The King of Denmark); Peter Sculthorpe *(Sun Music One)*; Tavener (Celtic Requiem)
12.15am Composer of the Week: Webern (*r*)
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer *for the Day* **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. The explorer and travel writer Redmond O'Hanlon (r)
9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley
10.00 News; Messages to Myself (FM). See Choice (4/5)
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 The Natural History Programme Presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Food Programme with Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronicles, by Anthony Trollope. With Rosemary Leach and John Carlisle (2/3) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow reads Patricia Cornwell's *latest novel Hornet's Nest*, and sees an exhibition of Egyptian paintings
4.45 Short Story: Easy Money, by Fred Davies. Read by Kathryn Hunt (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places. David Stafford reveals more ideas for things to do this weekend
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serle presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Bonnyrigg, Midlothian. With Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, Alistair Darling, shadow Chief Secretary to the *Treasury; Sir David Steel*, MP, and Dr Winnie Ewing, MEP, president of the SNP
8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins
9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. The Curse of the Cassette. See Choice (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Lonely Londoners. Sam Selvon's classic account of the first West *Indians to arrive* in Britain in the 1950s. Read by Rudolph Walker (5/5)
11.00 Week Ending. A look at the week's events with Sally Grace and the team
11.25 Tea Junction. Patrick Hannan and guests take a *quizzical look* at the week's headlines
11.45 Twilight. Joanna Pinnock visits heathland in Devon in search of the nightjar (3/5) (*r*)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien. Read by *Michael* Hordern (10/15) (*r*)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.56am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

The Lost Gardens of Heligan: Tonight 8.00



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Living off the land? I'm not wild about it

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

This being the middle of March, the sap is rising. Therefore the first thing I must do this morning is pass on some urgent instructions, in the event that you are reading this while walking through a wood carrying a brace and bit, a length of plastic hose and a plastic container and you are suddenly taken with the desire for a glass of wine.

See that birch tree over there? Placing the bit firmly in the brace, drill a hole in the tree to a depth of an inch or so. Withdraw the bit and wait. Sap will shortly start to seep, so jam one end of the hose in the hole and the other end in the container. Wait two days. You now have enough sap so mix in some fermenting material (sorry, can't help you there) and you will soon have wine of a quality fit to bring the trading standards people round at a gallop.

I know all this because I watched **A Cook on the Wild Side** (Channel 4) last night. I also know how to catch a hare: you get a long net and stake it to posts, then get beaters to drive the hare into the net. Once it is caught, skin the hare, simmer for three hours in wine and herbs, thicken sauce with hare's blood. I can also catch a freshwater crayfish (steam for five minutes in boiling water) using as bait the carcass of a chicken.

That last bit was worrying: is there some method of catching chickens involving a lassoo made from bindweed, or should we buy a chicken from Sainsbury's, rip off all the flesh and throw the carcass in a river on the end of a string? Modern living poses terrible dilemmas.

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's series, back for another run, is about food foraging, this time on the inland waterways, with F-W based aboard his river cruiser. The boat itself, painted to resemble a Dulux colour chart, is not universally admired: "Bit like a glassfibre lunchbox, innit?" says a man probably rendered grumpy by the realisation that he was born too late for *What's My Line?* ("lives off canal scrap").

Fearnley-Whittingstall is never grumpy and his programmes are highly entertaining, but it is slightly odd that television, which would become a redundant medium if we took up all the tempting activities it offers us, should be quite so keen to show us the hard way to do everything.

Ray Mears, survival's ultimate survivor, has a series on BBC2 in which he visits the sort of people for whom fishing with a chicken would be a mere bagatelle: they first have to dig through six feet of ice to reach the water. And even Jeremy Clarkson, chief motormouth, could not resist going to Iceland to show us that the way to reinflate a flat tyre is not to call Kwik-Fit but to spray lighter fuel inside the tyre and set fire to it.

These programmes warm the heart in that they show us people who retain the skill to use naturally occurring resources. I am glad such people exist, but will resist joining them. And our stretched public services need modern applications for this inventiveness: where is the man who can rub two sheet-metal workers together to create a fire engine?

If all of this reaching for nature is part of our compulsion to explore the past, **Horizon: Shipwreck** (BBC2) at least demonstrated that there is a link between a lump of wood dumped on the seabed 400 years ago and computer-aided design. This was a fascinating detective story about a ship wrecked off Alderney in the Channel Islands in the 16th century.

There are at least 100 wrecks in the area and when bits of this one first appeared in fishing nets no one saw much significance. But gradually the impression grew that the ship may be special, may indeed be the first English vessel of the time to be recovered from home waters. The key clue lay in the rudder.

Ships of that ilk were built without benefit of physics but they nonetheless were measured on very precise ratios. Therefore raising the rudder and measuring it meant that all the ship's proportions — length of keel, beam and so on — could be calculated, enabling a computer projection of the ship itself. It was not the ship that the archaeologist Michael Bowyer hoped it might be, a pinnace built at Limehouse in 1586, and indeed the detective work continues. But analysis of a timber gun port cover proved that the wood was cut in 1575 and that it was British.

I hope that my enjoyment of **Surely Some Mistake** (BBC2), the series on corporate *faux pas* which ended last night, does not reflect the usual British glee at the sight of a business person doing something daft. Each half-hour programme dealt with three examples when in many cases one would have easily absorbed all the time available, but that is my only reservation.

The highlight last night was Benetton and its creative director, Oliviero Toscani. Benetton is, of course, the Italian company that makes what Ian Hislop calls "overpriced pullovers", and Toscani is responsible for the company's most controversial advertisements, which included an Aids victim on his deathbed (banned in Britain) and a new-born child (withdrawn after protests).

For the latter, Toscani went to a maternity hospital and took the photographs himself: "One woman asked me, 'how much do I owe you?' " Toscani is now pursuing a gentler line: "It's time to do some reflection." But did these advertisements, which struck me as merely daft and pretentious, constitute a business mistake, given that the controversy provided Benetton with enormous exposure? I cannot conjure a Benetton balance sheet out of squid's ink and a piece of timber beaten to a pulp, so I don't know.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (15443)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (10801)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5114714)
9.20 Style Challenge (4461191)
9.45 Kilroy (4141356)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (62191)
11.00 News (T) and weather (6167153)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7779882)
11.35 Change That (8354714)
12.00 News (T) and weather (7211882)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5252085)
12.30 Going for a Song (6522153)
12.55 The Weather Show (79693917)
1.00 News (T) and weather (20288)
1.30 Regional News (83363482)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (11667269)
2.05 For the Love of Aaron (1994) with Meredith Baker and Nick Mancuso. A struggling author goes through a creative and financial rough patch. Directed by John Kent Harrison (7948627) FILM
3.30 Playdays (5129998) **3.50** The Red Nose Zone. Comedy sketches, games and competitions — all in the name of charity (5663608) **5.05** Newsround (T) (9658375) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (2614379)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (903917)
6.00 News (T) and weather (795)
6.30 Newsroom South East (375)
7.00 CHOICE **Comic Relief** Lenny Henry kicks off an evening of entertainment in aid of charities both at home and abroad. Susan Tully reports on the hardships faced by street children in Tamale (5191)
8.00 Dame Edna Makes the Nation See Red The megastar presents *Coronation Street* stars on *University Challenge*; Father Clifford of *Ballykissangel* meeting *The Vicar of Dibley*; and the Spice Girls. Victoria Wood looks at caring for sick relatives 24 hours a day (1511)
9.00 News (T) and weather (7801)
9.30 Comic Relief: French and Saunders Behaving Badly Dawn and Jennifer keep the ball rolling with *Men Behaving Badly* and Boyzone. Julie Walters reports from Addis Ababa (146820)
10.15 Ross, Rhys, Enfield and Chums In *Prime Cracker*, Fitz and Detective Jane Tennison join forces; Tony Ferrino performs a duet with Bjork; Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse provide comic interludes (286172)
11.00 Father Ted and His Faithful Friends Unholy Fathers Ted and Dougal bless the proceedings with their presence (9646)
11.30 The Empire Strikes Back: Live Comedy and music from the Shepherds Bush Empire, with Steve Coogan, Bill Bailey, Suggs, Art Garfunkel, The Spice Girls and the Sugar Lumps, comprising Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Kathy Burke, Llewella Gideon and Lulu (36085)
12.30am Bedtime with Ben Ben Elton with the final selection of sketches. Plus, the phone pledge total is announced (32486)
1.00 Comic Relief: The Beginning The early-1980s show (30912)
2.30 Billy Connelly's Return to Nose and Beak (T) (4132221)
3.20 Weather (73471912)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The *numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder* instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the *Video PlusCode for the programme you* wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University (7140714) **6.25** Forest Futures (T) (7714086) **7.15** News (T) (7063269) **7.30** The Wacky Races (r) (8817511) **7.55** The Really Wild Show (r) (T) (3297085) **8.20** Just So Stories (r) (7686462) **8.35** The Record (5880269) **9.00** The French Experience (5121004) **9.15** The Biology Collection (850795) **9.45** Watch (7905627) **10.00** Playdays (72153) **10.30** Hotch Potch House (2219269) **10.50** Cosmo and Dibs in Punjabi and English (5176530) **11.00** Look and Read (9119608) **11.20** Short Circuit (9002356) **11.40** English Time (9973530) **12.00** English File (51085) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (88627)
1.00 CHOICE **Scene: Skinny Marink** Comedy from Howard Schuman (11530)
1.30 Le Club (83352356) **1.45** Words and Pictures (83340511) **2.00** Just So Stories (r) (36972240) **2.10** Sport on Friday (278172) **3.55** News (T) (6574240) **4.00** Today's the Day (288) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (172) **5.00** Esther (T) (8172)
5.30 Seniors Pot Black David Vine introduces the final of the inaugural competition (424)
6.00 The Simpsons Bart dies and goes to Hell (T) (133004)
6.25 Top of the Pops (T) (277801)
7.00 Pole to Pole: Shifting Sands Michael Palin crosses Sudan from the Nubian Desert in the north to the war-torn south (r) (T) (773820)
7.50 A Week to Remember (b/w) (393004)
8.00 CHOICE **Birding with Bill Oddie** who goes on an autumn journey along England's East Coast (T) (4356)
8.30 Gardeners' World Stephen Lacey visits Dunham Massey, a newly restored National Trust garden (T) (6191)

Stephen Fry's favourites (9pm)

9.00 Comic Relief Goes to the Movies Stephen Fry, Jo Brand and Mark Lamarr are among celebrities choosing clips from their favourite films (T) (5443)
9.30 Timewatch: Haig — The Unknown Soldier Was Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig really responsible for sending thousands of young men to their deaths at the Somme? (r) (T) (876559)
10.20 Lucinda Lambton's Alphabet of Britain (r) (T) (793849)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (548545)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (241269)
11.15 Space: Above and Beyond West recalls a brutal battle (219820)
12.00 Stuff the White Rabbit Guests include Jerry Sadowitz, Tom Mullica and Noel Britten (53467)
12.30am-2.00 The Lover and His Lass (1975) Risqué comedy about man breezing his way through a succession of jobs and girlfriends. Directed by Lasse Hallstrom. In Swedish with English subtitles (78009) FILM

CHOICE

Scene: Skinny Marink
BBC2, 1.00pm

Once again you have to be impressed at the quality of the talent gathered for a schools drama. The writer is Howard Schuman, of *Rock Follies, Selling Hitler* and a prize-winning comedy for *Scene* called *Young Jung*. The cast includes Phyllis Logan, Philip Jackson and Roy Hudd, and teenage actors who are less known but no less good. One of them, Kristopher Miles, plays Andy, the teenager at the heart of the story. He is a self-doubting young man bothered by forthcoming exams and his father's illness. Schuman draws on his Polish background for the Skinny Marink of the title, a twisted clay figure which acts as Andy's alter ego and represents his anxieties. It is an intelligent and thoughtful piece which would not be out of place in the adult schedules.

Comic Relief
BBC1, 7.00pm

If you have ever thought what a wheeze it would be to send Stephen Tompkinson's Father Peter from Ballykissangel to the village of Dibley, with Dawn French's vicar moving in the opposite direction, then think no longer. It happens tonight, during six hours of fundraising entertainment interrupted only by the news. Or how about an alternative Spice Girls, featuring French and Saunders, Kathy Burke and Lulu? Boyzone and the real Spice Girls are also on parade, together with lots of comedy performers doing lots of silly things. Lenny Henry, Dame Edna, the ubiquitous F and S, Jonathan Ross and the *Father Ted* stars take turns to host the evening, which is in aid of charity projects in Africa and Britain. The fare is better than that served up for Children in Need and the cause no less worthy.

Birding With Bill Oddie: East Coast
BBC2, 8.00pm

The magic of birding, Bill Oddie reckons, can be summed up in one word: migration. To pursue this theme he travels down the coast of Britain, from the Farne Islands in Northumberland, by way of Flamborough Head and Bridlington in Yorkshire, to north Norfolk. All the while his binoculars are trained on birds of passage who are making Britain their temporary home. They may have come from the Arctic and be heading for Africa, so British birdwatchers have to know when and where to spot them. To Oddie's credit he does not pretend that birding is unmitigated fun. He braves the prospect of seasickness to join fellow enthusiasts on a North Sea boat trip. The waters stay calm, thus saving us any unsavoury footage, but the birds, despite being tempted by a smelly mix of vegetable oil and fish guts, refuse to show.

The Lost Gardens of Heligan
Channel 4, 8.00pm

This is not the first television documentary about the biggest garden restoration in Europe this century and nor, given the continuing nature of the project, should it be the last. But a six-part series promises the most detailed account so far. As Heligan attracts 200,000 visitors a year, many will know the story but for newcomers it goes like this. The gardens in Cornwall were developed from the middle of the 18th century to the start of this one. Then came the First World War and half the garden staff died on the Western Front. The expertise went with them and for 70 years Heligan *"went to sleep"*, becoming a wilderness hidden under laurel and brambles. The restoration started in 1990, led by Tim Smit, a music producer, and John Nelson, a local builder. Then and now comparisons reveal the scale of the task. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6518530)
9.25 Chain Letters (4446882)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5245269)
10.00 The Time, the Place (96397)
10.30 This Morning (T) (72965058)
12.20pm Regional News (7226714)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6557849)
12.55 Wish You Were Here? (6525240) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47467356) **1.50** 14 Weddings and a Divorce (r) (8256085) **2.50** Get a Life! (5888288)
3.20 News (T) (5907135)
3.25 Regional News (T) (6357676)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (4167725) **3.40** Slim Pig (9681998) **3.50** Cartoon Time (9670882) **4.00** Zzzap! (2493627) **4.15** Jumanji (T) (1112627) **4.40** Gladiators: Train 2 Win (T) (4058462)
5.10 A Country Practice (5395443)
5.40 News (T) and weather (146795)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (120530)
6.25 HTV Weather (T) (476356)
6.30 HTV News (443)
7.00 Lucky Numbers (T) (5462)
7.30 Coronation Street Ken Barlow, all set to defend himself, is given a worrying piece of news by the school governors (T) (627)
8.00 The Bill: Confidence Keane puts her job before friendship when she passes on confidential information to CID for use in a drugs investigation (T) (1882)

Selina Scott presents (8.30pm)

8.30 Eye Spy Selina Scott presents footage of real-life crimes captured on surveillance cameras (T) (9707)
9.00 Catherine Cookson's the Moth In the final part, Stanley Thorman decides to sell the estate; tragedy strikes the Bradley household and Robert angers the resentful Dave Waters further with his gifts for the Thorman sisters (T) (6443)
10.00 News (T) and weather (49240)
10.30 HTV News (T) and weather (625337)
10.40 Hotel The first in a four-part behind the scenes look at the Swallow hotel in Bristol. Tonight, a visit by the Prime Minister adds to the daily pressure on the kitchen and housekeeping staff (511530)
11.10 At the Albert: Andy Sheppard's New Quartet — Moving Image Miles Kington presents the first in a series of concerts recorded at The Albert music pub in Bedminster, Bristol (633612)
12.15am Judy Horowitz Reports (3583863)
12.25 Funky Bunker (8417554)
1.25 Club Nation (4811776)
2.25 Shift (4956738)
3.25 Movie Club (r) (38543660)
3.55 Dear Nick (r) (8741486)
4.50 Sound Bites (34795370)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (98115)
5.30 ITN Morning News

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6525240)
1.50 Savannah (8265733)
2.50-3.20 Our House (5988288)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5395443)
6.25-7.00 Central News (271627)
10.40 Central Weekend Live (3975337)
12.10am Weekly World News (3736919)
12.35 Funky Bunker (5979134)
1.35 Baywatch (3590863)
2.30 Cyber Cafe (88399)
3.00 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (38540573)
3.25 Dating the Enemy (2429660)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (8912221)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7217066)
12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6525240)
1.50 High Road (11665801)
2.20-3.20 Murder, She Wrote: Ballad For a Blue Lady starring Angela Lansbury, Florence Henderson and Jimmy Dean (8705269)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5395443)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (83172)
10.40 Conspiracy of Silence. Episode two of the dramatisation of the true story of Helen Betty Osborne, a young Indian woman murdered in northern Manitoba in 1971 (94749248)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6525240)
1.55 Savannah (8264004)
2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (5988288)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5395443)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (83172)
10.40 Conspiracy of Silence (94749248)
4.50am Soundbites (34795370)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7229801)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6525240)
1.55 Savannah (8264004)
2.50-3.20 Dogs with Dunbar (5988288)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5395443)
6.23 Anglia Weather (477085)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (271627)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (643379)
10.40 Conspiracy of Silence (94749248)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (47563) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (50581) **9.00 Bewitched** (66917) **9.30 Ysgolion** (665627) **12.00 Collectors' Lot** (46153) **12.30pm Ellen** (73795) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (13998) **1.30 Film: Bonnie Prince Charlie** (73414172) **3.45 Travelog Treks** (1717004) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (356) **4.30 Shop Till You Drop** (240) **5.00 5 Pump** (3240) **5.30 Countdown** (820) **6.00 Newyddion** (112646) **6.05 Heno** (115608) **6.35 Jacpot** (483646) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (874269) **7.25 Y Sioe Gelf** (376066) **8.00 Penclacwydd: Medi — Hydref** (9424) **8.30 Newyddion** (8559) **9.00 Turning World** (4085) **10.00 Brookside** (47882) **10.30 Countryside Undercover** (56530) **11.00 Here's Johnny** (582288) ***11.35 The Girlie Show*** (553117) **12.05am TFI Friday** (8410641) **1.05 Robin** (3247047) **1.10 Flava** (9733047) **1.40 Film: Reflections in a Golden Eye** (841028) **3.40 Film: X, Y and Zee** (114028)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (47563) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (50581) **9.00** Bewitched (T) (66917)
9.30 Schools (665627)
12.00 Bloom (r) (T) (46153)
12.30pm Baby It's You How a baby transforms itself into a walking, talking, thinking human being (1/6) (r) (T) (73795) **1.00** Ellen. The book shop faces financial difficulties (T) (13998) **1.30** Cafe Bar. Animation (48732207)
1.35 Tiara Tahiti (1962) with John Mills, James Mason, Herbert Lom and Roy Kinnear. Two British Army officers still locked in a class battle after the Second World War has ended. Directed by Ted Kotcheff (T) (19260627) FILM
3.30 Travelling Light Tim Grundy and Peter Hamilton visit the Border towns of south-east Scotland (T) (849)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (356) **4.30** Countdown (T) (240) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (3240) **5.30** Pet Rescue. An update on TC and Fritz, two cats who have been rehomed together (T) (820)
6.00 TFI Friday With Chris Evans and guest David Baddiel (81714)
7.00 Channel 4 News Includes headlines and weather at 7.30 (T) (490085)
7.55 The Slot (396191)

The dovecote at Heligan (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **The Lost Gardens of Heligan** The first of a six-part series charting the restoration of the 157-acre Cornish gardens after 75 years of neglect (T) (9424)
8.30 Brookside Jimmy says goodbye to his son and discovers what Jackie has been keeping a secret. After the recent accusations do Bel and Ollie have a future together? (T) (8559)
9.00 Edward Scissorhands (1990) Superior romantic fantasy with Johnny Depp and Winona Ryder. A man-made boy, who has sharp metal shears for hands, faces up to the curiosity of the outside world. Directed by Tim Burton (T) (4608) FILM
11.00 Here's Johnny Chat show presented by Johnny Vaughan (5/7) (582288)
11.35 The Girlie Show Tonight's guests include the ubiquitous Spice Girls (553117)
12.05am TFI Friday (r) (8410641)
1.05 Robin Animated adventures (3247047)
1.10 Flava Soul, reggae and jungle music (5/8) (9733047)
1.40 Reflections in a Golden Eye (1967) with Marlon Brando, Elizabeth Taylor and Brian Keith. A drama set in the Deep South about a martinet army major who is forced to face his latent homosexuality. Directed by John Huston (T) (841028) FILM
3.40 X, Y and Zee *(1971) with Elizabeth* Taylor, Michael Caine and Susannah York. A man in a volatile marriage falls for a young widow. Directed by Brian G. Hutton (114028). Ends at **5.35** FILM

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (247379) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (85714) **10.00** Another World (44882) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (64646) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (30004) **1.00pm** Geraldo (16424) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (20714) **3.00** Jenny Jones (56578) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (35085) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4511) **6.00** Real TV (5171) **6.30** Married — with Children (1153) **7.00** The Simpsons (5240) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7337) **8.00** JAG (55337) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (88801) **10.00** High Incident ([illegible]) **11.00** Selina Scott Tonight (36714) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3511) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (70660) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1899221)

SKY 2

7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (6821153) **8.00** Melrose Place (5530801) **9.00** Pacific Drive (6327337) **10.00** Tales from the Crypt (78288) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (6451627) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9324467)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Fanny (1961) (17453827) **8.15 The Pagemaster (1994)** (17050022) **10.00 Roller Boogie (1979)** (22085) **12.00 Strangers: The Story of a Mother and Daughter (1979)** (34917) **2.00pm Fugitive Family (1980)** (52240) **4.00 Airborne (1993)** (9443) **6.00 The Pagemaster (1994)** (72004) **8.00 The Brady Bunch Movie (1995)** (84849) **10.00 The Infiltrator (1995)** (740646) **11.35 In Pursuit of Honour (1995)** (156801) **1.25am The Slingshot (1994)** (751931) **3.15 Jack Reed: A Search for Justice (1995)** (376776) **4.45 Strangers: The Story of a Mother and Daughter (1979)** (6605318)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Girl in Room 17. (1953) (53612) **8.00 The Dragon That Wasn't, or Was He? (1985)** (19608) **10.00 Helen of Troy (1956)** (20627) **12.00 My Family Treasure (1993)** (32559) **2.00pm They Watch (1993)** (50882) **4.00 The Kid from Left Field (1953)** (7085) **6.00 Second Chance (1995)** (93733) **7.30 UK Top 10** (3375) **8.00 A Mother's Prayer (1995)** (75191) **10.00 In the Mouth of Madness (1995)** (458153) **11.40 Sleep with Me (1994)** (868795) **1.10am Lightning Jack (1994)** (279912) **2.50 The Illustrated Man (1969)** (208370) **4.35 The Dragon That Wasn't, or Was He?** (5583399)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Giant (1956) (2771646) **9.30 Special Feature** (1999578) **10.00 Heartbreak Ridge (1986)** (47908207) **12.15am The Panic in Needle Park (1971)** (8518196) **2.05 Wild in the Country (1961)** (8585844) **4.00-5.30 Rancho Notorious (1952)** (7596931)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from **5am to 9pm**, then TNT films as *follows*
8.00pm WCW Nitro (92926086) **9.00 The Haunting (1963)** (92929153) **11.00 The Hunger (1983)** (92982882) **12.45am Mad Love (1935)** (44471047) **2.10-5.00 The Haunting (1963)** (38547950)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (1226581) **6.25** Quack Attack (8276266) **6.50** Bonkers (3426530) **7.15** Little Mermaid (1747917) **7.40** Aladdin (2023627) **8.05** Quack Pack (3136443) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (1743379) **8.40** Care Bears (1517375) **9.10** Grounding Marsh (2936462) **9.40** Big Garage (8102443) **9.55** Lamb Chop (8924511) **10.25** Muppet Babies (5085511) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (1926998) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (4563153) **11.50** Pooh Corner (1051288) **12.20** Timon and Pumbaa (8903849) **12.35pm** Little Mermaid (6528530) **1.00** Disney Presents (1614004) **1.50** Aladdin (62735153) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (53086559) **2.35** Bonkers (5815795) **3.00** Quack Attack (1180135) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (4868356) **3.35** Goof Troop (5858559) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4962511) **4.10** Goof Troop (9298714) **4.35** Bonkers (5804085) **5.00** Aladdin (5793397) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (8309882) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (804207) **6.00** Sky Trackers (8627) **6.30** Timon and Pumbaa (714288) **6.40 FILM: The Ransom of the Red Chief** (7479153) **8.10** Timon and Pumbaa (993288) **8.20-10.00 FILM: Beverly Hills Family Robinson** (46779608)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (5299443) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7490191) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6475207) **7.30** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (6454714) **8.00** Masked Rider (7432356) **8.30** Crocadoo (7431627) **9.00** Rimba's Island (5623578) **9.25** Why Why Family (2129578) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (3899066) **9.55** Why Why Family (9639676) **10.00** Rimba's Island (2984743) **10.25** Why Why Family (5049085) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (93772066) **10.55** Why Why Family (92824530) **11.00** Princess Starla (2983882) **11.30** Pinocchio (2984511) **12.00** Billy the Cat (7435443) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29995917) **12.50** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (29975153) **1.10** Masked Rider (25571733) **1.30** Ace Ventura (6227172) **2.00** Casper (4587085) **2.30** Life with Louie (8950676) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (4599820) **3.30** Ace Ventura (3900171) **4.00** Casper (4255088) **4.30** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (8055220) **5.00** Masked Rider (4578337) **5.30** Spiderman (4350612) **6.00** Goosebumps (7500135) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3805527)

SKY SPORTS 1

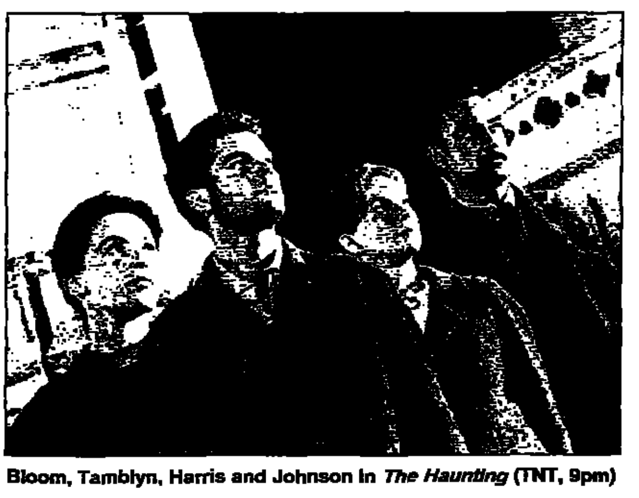
7.00am Sports Centre (81337) **7.30** Wrestling (37356) **8.30** Racing News (94337) **9.00** Sports Centre (18917) **9.30** Aerobics (54207) **10.00** Netbusters (74559) **10.30** Golf: Portuguese Open — Live (20578) **12.30pm** Golf: Honda Classic (58171) **2.30** Netbusters (7356) **3.00** Golf: Portuguese Open — Live (97733) **4.59** Sports Centre (6909608) **5.00** Schoolboy Football (2795) **6.00** Sports Centre (33714) **7.00** Rugby League: Bradford v Warrington — Live (475066) **9.30** Boxing: Francis v Carr — Live (52085) **11.30** Sports Centre (88085) **12.30am** Golf: Portuguese Open (14863) **2.30** Rugby League (90844) **4.00-5.00** Sports Centre (35080)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Badminton: All England Championships Semi-Finals — Live (4728004) **11.00** The Rugby Club (6298375) **12.00** Snowboard Show (7371578) **12.30am-1.00** Football: Futbol Mundial (8573450)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Cricket: South Africa v Australia — Second Test Live (68433085) **3.30pm** Cricket: West Indies v India — Second Test Live (83220240) **9.00** Golf. Honda Classic — Live (92921511) **11.00-12.00** Wrestling



Bloom, Tamblyn, Harris and Johnson in *The Haunting* (TNT, 9pm)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Snowboarding (20424) **8.30** Cross-Country Skiing Engadin Marathon (12733) **9.00** Skiing: Women's Super G Final (25356) **10.00** Skiing: Men's Super G Final (69827) **10.30** Ski Jumping: Long Hill (87135) **12.00** Freestyle Skiing: Aerials — Live (39998) **1.00pm** Snowboarding: Parallel Slalom — Live (48646) **2.00** Tennis: Newsweek Champions Cup (90424) **4.00** Nordic Combined Skiing (75627) **5.00** Ski Special (3761) **6.00** Tennis: Newsweek Champions Cup — Live (8767820) **10.00** Boxing (94240) **11.00** Ski Jumping (85153) **12.00-12.30am** Freeride (66479)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton Factor (2935530) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (99515369) **6.45** Magic Ball (15639004) **7.00** Allsorts (4730337) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum ([illegible]) **7.30** Catweazle (6795930) **8.00** Classic Coronation St (4995917) **8.30** Families (4294289) **9.00** The Professionals (2851578) **10.00** Grumbleweeds (7090627) **10.30** Cuckoo Waltz (4974424) **11.00** [illegible] Walls (6714578) **12.00** Classic Coronation St (4998004) **12.30pm** Families (7860424) **1.00** Albion Market (6735066) **1.30** Good Life Guide (7869795) **2.00** A Piece of Cake (7091356) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (1896530) **4.00** Doctor Series (6033288) **4.30** Grumbleweeds (6022172) **5.00** The Professionals (8103714) **6.00** Families (6010337) **6.30** Classic Coronation St (6034917) **7.00** Doctor Series (6104443) **7.30** Cuckoo Waltz (6023801) **8.00** Upstairs Downstairs (7501240) **9.00** Classic Coronation St (1801849) **9.30** The Comedians (7890288) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (7524191)
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From **6.00am-9.00** TV High St
From **9.00-12.00** Food and Wine
From **12.00-3.00pm** Health and Beauty
From **3.00-6.00** Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: George Washington (8137578) **5.00** The Life and Times of Jesus (3876801) **6.00** Weapons at War (6315646) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Malcolm X (4508337)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (1044405) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3167115) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (3160919) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (8910216) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (4143216)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2086578) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (2899085) **10.00** Two's Country Cooking (4456646) **10.30** Our House (2075462) **11.00** Fix It (5515375) **11.30** This Old House (5516004) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2086714) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2893801) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8305820) **1.30** Home Again (2892172) **2.00** Hometime (4342153) **2.30** Furniture (8474820) **3.00** Two's Country (4361288) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (8453337)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Fishing Adventures (8465172) **4.30** Breaking the Ice (8461356) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4366733) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8452608) **6.00** Wild Things (2801820) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4353269) **7.30** Weather (8462085) **8.00** Jurassica II (3634882) **9.00** Medical Detectives (5595511) **9.30** Science Detectives (2890337) **10.00** Justice Files (3657733) **11.00** Lotus Elise (8399269) **12.00** After Desert Storm (2701028) **1.00am** Driving Passions (4471776) **1.30-2.00** Extremists (6019486)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (6712269) **7.35** Neighbours (9577849) **8.00** Crossroads (1232424) **8.25** EastEnders (8503356) **9.00** The Bill (2055608) **9.30** Bread (2891443) **10.00** Never the Twain (4458004) **10.30** The Sullivans (2077820) **11.00** The Rockford Files (8303482) **12.00** Crossroads (2068172) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2802559) **1.00** EastEnders (4224135) **1.35** The Two Ronnies (3390733) **2.30** For the Love of Ada (8483578) **3.00** Goldmaster (4383646) **3.30** The Bill (8455795) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (5508085) **5.00** Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game (56583085) **6.05** EastEnders (3089658) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (3897646) **7.20** Russ Abbot (7588004) **7.50** Bullseye (2427153) **9.00** The Bill (5504269) **9.30** The Chief (10696917) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (1281559) **11.25 FILM: I Was a Teenage Vampire** (7494801) **1.00am FILM: Hands of the Ripper** (2825405) **2.30** Shopping at Night (7649080)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (51207) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (19733) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (98240) **8.00** Batman (57820) **8.30** Art Attack (56191) **9.00** Flash Gordon (47443) **9.30** Bobby's World (83733) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (79627) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (43627) **11.00** Danger Mouse (63545) **11.30** Gravedale High (13004) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (67207) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (94849) **1.00** By the Way of the Stars (18004) **1.30** Black Beauty (86820) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (5424) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (3172) **3.00** Art Attack (4559) **3.30** Flash Gordon (5917) **4.00** Batman (4424) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (4068)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (12882) **6.30** Count Duckula (81849) **7.00** Rocko (9687820) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (6792172) **7.30** Rugrats (91714) **8.00** Doug (93608) **8.30** Arthur (25207) **9.00** Children's BBC (18559) **10.00** Wimzie's House (65801) **10.30** Babar (32153) **11.00** Magic School Bus (97849) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jimbo (98578) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (96795) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (23337) **1.00** Children's BBC (11578) **2.00** Dr Seuss (8838) **2.30** Kissyfur (5998) **3.00** Wishbone (9085) **3.30** Stickin' Around (7153) **4.00** Bruno (9578) **4.30** Rugrats (8462) **5.00** Sister Sister (4530) **5.30** Moesha (9714) **6.00** Press Gang (6827) **6.30-7.00** Doug

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm E UK (1068) **7.30** Roseanne (9191) **8.00** Roseanne (8694) **8.30** Monty Python (9849) **9.00** Cheers (77085) **9.30** Taxi (36801) **10.00** Garry Shandling (97424) **10.30** Frasier (82612) **11.00** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (72530) **11.30** Monty Python (61085) **12.00** Nurses (39825) **12.30am** Soap (23776) **1.00** Cheers (89592) **1.30** Taxi (95641) **2.00** E (24738) **2.30** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (36573) **3.00** Frasier (76028) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (27825)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3638608) **9.00** Burning Zone (3641172) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3651559) **11.00 FILM: The Black Cat** (6059004) **1.00am** Burning Zone (4385216) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9783405) **3.00 FILM: The Black Cat** (2807809) **5.00** Robocop

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (2375714) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (3194714) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (8156820) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4200646) **11.00** Young and the Restless (8604375) **11.45** Super fresco Fabulosious (44081269) **11.50** New Mr and Mrs (7351153) **12.25pm** Why Me? (70314998) **12.55** Tempestt (3992443) **1.40** Rolonda (9328356) **2.30** Agony Experience (2503240) **3.00** Live at Three (49902714) **4.05** Jerry Springer (5903207) **5.00** Super fresco Fabulosious (37444820) **5.05** Lingo (84689795) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2514356) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (6690337) **6.35** Heat Is On (3278356) **7.05** Infatuation UK (1250733) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6279733) **8.05** Rolonda (8593578) **9.00 FILM: The Josephine Baker Story** (84330530) **10.55** Sex Life (3636849) **11.25-12.00** More Sex Life (7479085)

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Prize Time (8319269) **5.05** Blockbusters (1021424) **5.35** Prize Time (978998) **5.50** Spellbound (889998) **6.20** Prize Time (456627) **6.30** Catchphrase (719608) **6.55** Prize Time (706269) **7.05** Sale of the Century (697172) **7.30** Prize Time (350424) **7.40** Gives Us a Clue (867004) **8.10** Prize Time (999462) **8.20** All Clued Up (727172) **8.50** Prize Time (508288) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (794022) **9.25** Prize Time (400207) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (901511) **10.00** Prize Time (508733) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (475608) **11.05** Prize Time (420004) **11.20** Love at First Sight (241424) **11.45** Prize Time (314004) **12.00** Sale of the Century (84399) **12.30am** Family Late: Hart to Hart (46486) **1.30** Lou Grant (61931) **2.30** Christy (17283) **3.30** All Together Now (72399) **4.00-5.00** The Fall Guy (88196)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.30** Shri Krishna **9.00** Punjabi Folk **9.30** Yaadon Ka Rang **10.00** Chalo Cinema **10.30** Kahkeshan **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Hasratain **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Love Stories **1.00** Bengali **FILM: Mastaan** **4.00** ZEE Zone . Presents **4.10** Kamal Kombination **4.45** Saanp Seedi **5.15** Young Buzz **6.00** Beegi Ke Pg **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** BBCD **7.30** Aahaa **8.00** News and Euronews **8.35** Parampara **9.05-12.00** Hit Star Season **FILM: Khoon Pasina**

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

RUGBY LEAGUE 44
Bradford to give Super League flying start

SPORT

BOXING 46
Cambridge meet Oxford in landmark contest

FRIDAY MARCH 14 1997

McCoy completes famous double with inspired run at Cheltenham

Mr Mulligan digs deep for gold

By Richard Evans
Racing correspondent

THE inspired brilliance of Tony McCoy yesterday enabled Mr Mulligan to complete one of the great sporting comebacks when he landed the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup at 20-1.

Little more than a month ago, the nine-year-old chaser was confined to his box, battered and bruised after a bone-crunching fall at Kempton Park on Boxing Day, while his young rider was nursing a fractured shoulder, sustained while riding at Wincanton. Looking on in despair was the horse's trainer, Noel Chance.

Even when a team of physiotherapists nursed horse and jockey back to fitness, a crucial racecourse gallop at Newbury 11 days ago left witnesses wondering if Mr Mulligan would be better suited to pulling a milk cart than running in jump racing's most prestigious race. "If he had run in a race that day, he would have finished two furlongs behind the rest. I was very disappointed," McCoy said. Chance felt "suicidal".

CHELTENHAM
97
FESTIVAL

And yet at Prestbury Park yesterday the leaden feet of Mr Mulligan were no more. The old zest and enthusiasm, which made him one of the most feared novices a year earlier, had returned as he tracked the front-running Dublin Flyer for the first circuit.

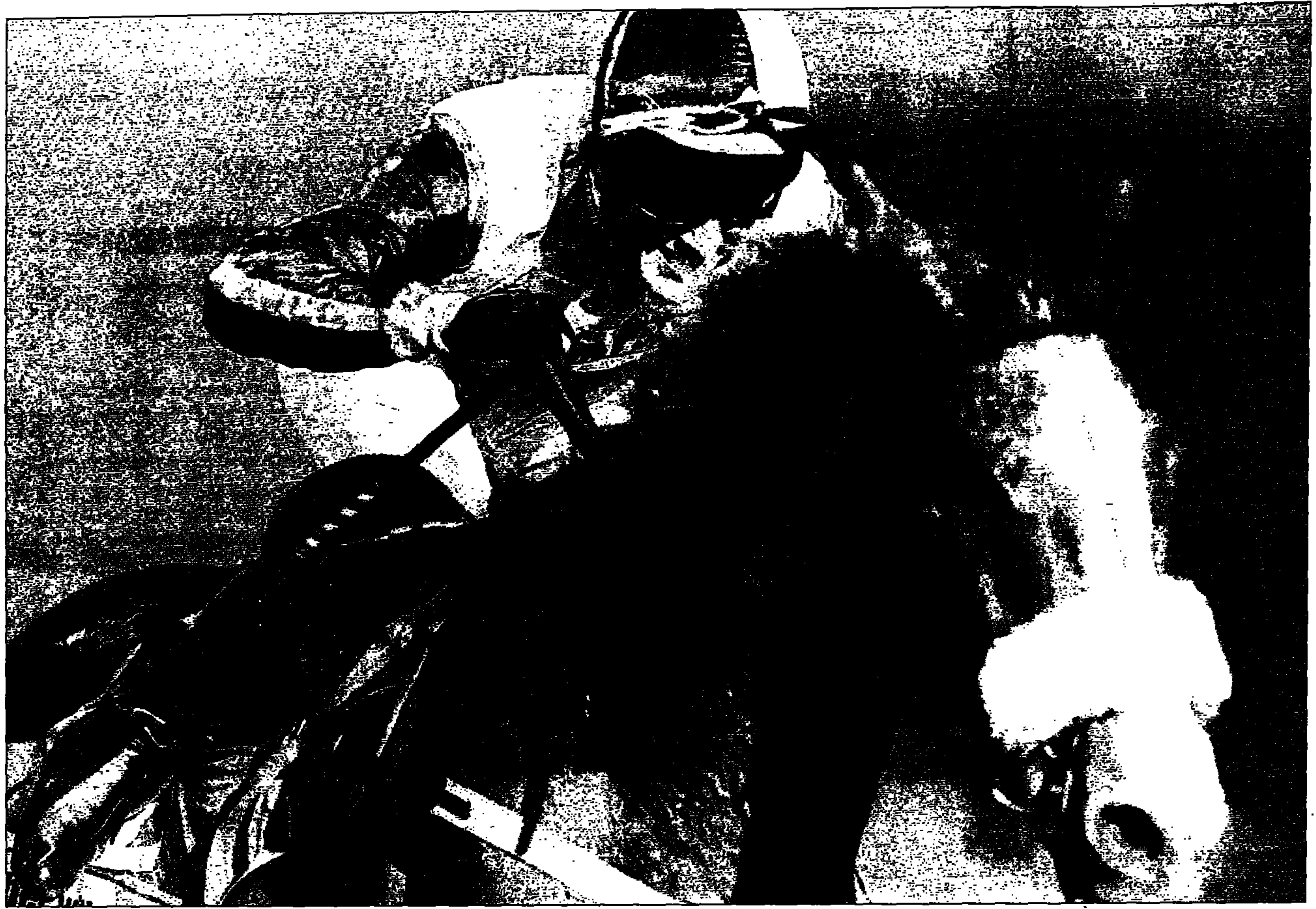
The defining moment of the race came as the 14 runners went out into the country for a second time. Dublin Flyer's suspect stamina gave way far earlier than anyone feared and Mr Mulligan put in a spring-heeled leap to nose ahead at the thirteenth of the 21 fences.

"When we went down the hill on the far side, I really wound him up for three or four fences down there," McCoy recalled. "He took off from wherever I wanted him to. I missed the fence at the top of the hill a little bit and I thought I might have hit it too hard, but as soon as we met the downhill run I gave him a smack and the way he picked up I knew it was going to take a good one to get past him."

Had the champion jockey possessed a set of wing mirrors, his confidence would have vanished. The enigmatic One Man, deliberately held up at the rear of the field by Richard Dunwoody, was beginning to cruise past struggling rivals. Turning for home, Dunwoody eased the Gordon Richards-trained grey into second spot and, after the penultimate fence, he represented an ominous threat.

Suddenly, in a matter of three of four strides, the challenge went from overdrive to neutral, a carbon-copy of 12 months earlier. With Mr Mulligan now pulling away in front, it was left to Barton Bank to win the battle for second place ahead of Dorans Pride. Imperial Call was pulled up and Danoli fell.

While Mr Mulligan earned his place in Cheltenham history, the victory provided McCoy with another milestone in his meteoric career. At the age of 22, he joins a distinguished roll-call of jockeys to have won a Champion Hurdle-Gold Cup double during a Festival.



McCoy and Mr Mulligan sprint up the hill at Cheltenham yesterday to record a famous victory for the underdog in the Gold Cup. Photograph: Marc Aspland

RESULT

1	MR MULLIGAN	20-1
2	Barton Bank	33-1
3	Dorans Pride	10-1

Incredibly, McCoy is in only his third full season as a jockey in Britain. In his first year he ended up leading conditional rider, with 74 winners; last term, he was crowned champion jockey after riding 175 winners and his success yesterday took his tally for the season to 143, more than 40 ahead of his nearest rival, despite a month off with injury. All that remains is for him to join Richard Dunwoody and Frankie Dettori as household names. After taking Cheltenham by storm this week, the wait is all but over.

If McCoy is becoming used to garnering jump racing's most coveted races, it is a new experience for Chance. After spending five years learning his craft in Australia, he returned to his native land. "It took me 20 years to train 100 winners, but in Ireland it is so competitive. It is very unequal, the big five or six trainers have 75 per cent of the horses. You have fellas like me ducking and diving — and trying to back them on the right day."

His break came when Michael Worcester, a businessman from near Bristol with a passion for racing, asked Chance two years ago to come to Lambourn as the private trainer of his horses.

Worcester was alerted to Mr Mulligan after Trevor Sainting, a vet from Troytown, noted the unlikeliest of Gold Cup winners on the Irish point-to-point circuit. "Louise Cooper, who is a spotter for us, said to me: 'Buy this horse. Don't come and look at him as you'll hate him. Just send me the cheque.'" The £18,000 Worcester splashed out on the blind purchase proved to be the investment of a lifetime.

Punters definitely came off worst in the never-ending battle waged with bookmakers during the three-day meeting. The only bonus is that the Tote jackpot was not won and a pool of £228,233 carried forward to Folkestone this afternoon is likely to double before racing gets under way.

Andrew Longmore, page 42
Racing, page 43

Bradford put brake on Waddle's free ride to the top

By Richard Hobson

THE proposed return of Chris Waddle to the FA Carling Premiership with Nottingham Forest stalled yesterday amid confusion over a supposed clause in his contract with Bradford City.

Dave Bassett, the Forest general manager, had been informed of Waddle's apparent availability on a free transfer on Wednesday evening by Irving Scholar, the Forest football consultant, who had spoken with Mel Stein, Waddle's agent.

Forest intended to make an announcement after unveiling Ian Moore, their £1 million signing from Tranmere Rovers, at an afternoon press conference yesterday. Waddle, meanwhile, had broken off from an engagement at a sports shop in Leeds to tell a radio reporter that he was looking forward to a return to the top flight, having left Sheffield Wednesday at the end of last season.

However, Bradford scuppered those plans when they contacted Forest to deny the existence of the clause, which allegedly allowed Waddle to move free of charge if approached by a Premiership club. They insisted that Waddle would remain with them as they seek to avoid relegation from the Nationwide League first division.

Bassett said that Forest would not pay a fee for Waddle. "We were interested when we thought it was a free, but unfortunately, we have been misled," he said.

Waddle later referred to a gentlemen's agreement, rather than a written clause, allowing him to leave. "I always thought that your word was your word," he said. "I will continue to play for Bradford for the rest of the season, but I am very disappointed."

Bassett said that the misunderstanding would not hinder the proposed £350,000 move of Jason Lee, the striker who achieved notoriety last season for his "pineapple" haircut and poor finishing, from Forest to Bradford.

Aston Villa have denied reports of a second bid for Stan Collymore, but remain the favourites to sign the troubled Liverpool striker during the close season.

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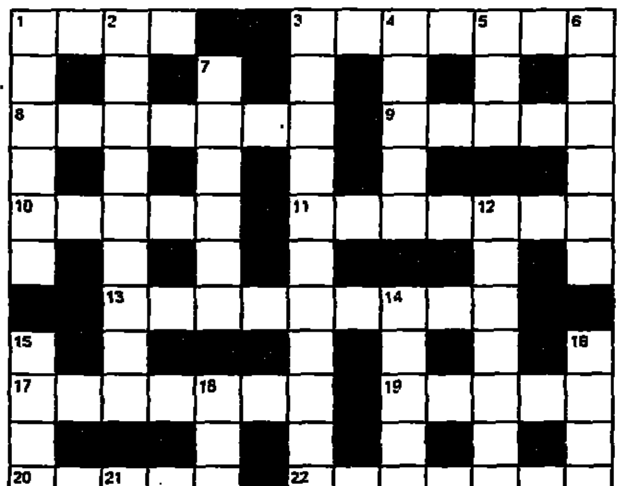
TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1041

ACROSS

- 1 Basin: asymmetrical ball (4)
- 3 Get to grips (7)
- 8 Organic manure (7)
- 9 Item of information (5)
- 10 Prospero its rightful Duke (5)
- 11 Beseech (7)
- 13 Unexpected winner (4,5)
- 17 Imputing worst motives (7)
- 19 Third-class: third-brightest (star) (5)
- 20 Subsequently (5)
- 22 Manlike creature (7)
- 23 Falsifying: ship's ropes etc (7)
- 24 Funeral fire (4)

DOWN

- 1 Suit: turn into (6)
- 2 The tennis championships (9)
- 3 Act unrestrainedly (2,3,5,3)
- 4 Check of books (5)
- 5 House animal (3)
- 6 Hatred (6)
- 7 Furniture maker (6)
- 12 50-50 chance (4,5)
- 14 System of government (6)
- 15 Iced choux-pastry confection (6)
- 16 Deal with (6)
- 18 Short-legged Welsh dog (5)
- 21 Yank: sort of boat (3)

The solution to 1040 will be published Wednesday, March 19

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Graveney signs for two years

By Simon Wilde

ENGLAND have revealed their selectorial hand. Now all they have to do is find a team to beat the Australians this summer. David Graveney, as expected, was yesterday named the new chairman of selectors and he is joined on the panel by Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, two former England captains retired from the international arena but still very much involved with the county game.

Graveney, who was chosen by the six core members of the England management committee, chaired by Bob Bennett, has been appointed for two years on an undisclosed salary plus expenses. Gooch, who became a selector last year, has been appointed for a further two years, Gatting, who is new to the job, for one. They will receive expenses only.

They will possibly be joined on the panel by the captain, whose appointment will be their first task and should not be long delayed. If it is not Michael Atherton it will be a considerable surprise, but whether he will have voting rights remains to be decided. There is a growing feeling that those closest to the players should not be seen to sit in judgment on them. The coach, at present David Lloyd, does not wield a vote in home matches.

Graveney: chairman

Gatting and Gooch, as the latter did last year, will probably prefer to assess England candidates from the middle rather than through binoculars, but there are other pairs of eyes, such as Lloyd's and those of the customary team of observers. But Graveney is well aware of the potential shortcomings of the set-up. "I expect to do a lot of travelling," he said.

In the next 24 months England must negotiate Test series against Australia and South Africa at home and West Indies and Australia away, an unforgiving schedule.

Graveney will continue to carry out his duties as general secretary of the Cricketers' Association, but at a salary reduced to take account of his pay from the England and Wales Cricket Board.

The potential conflict of interests — one that scuppered his chances of challenging Ray Illingworth's a year ago — has been removed by placing discipline of the England team in the hands of Bennett. Graveney's role firmly relates to selection, not management or coaching.

Graveney, 44, is the youngest chairman of selectors since Doug Insole 29 years ago and only the third since the Second World War to hold the post not having played Test cricket.

Return of Davies gives Wales a lift

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

THAT Jonathan Davies will return for one last fling against England tomorrow was nearly the silver lining around a heavy Wales cloud yesterday. Their team to play in Cardiff, in the final round of the five nations' championship and the last international to be played at the Arms Park in its present form, suffered three body blows that weigh none the lighter even though they were expected.

Ieuan Evans, the old magician on the wing, Scott Gibbs, the throbbing heart of the midfield and Colin Charvis, the promising flanker, all withdrew with injuries. Add these to the loss of Arwel Thomas and Mark Rowley and the scale of Wales's casualty list nearly rivals this season that of France.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, extolled the virtues of the squad system that allows him to call up such experienced replacements as Simon Hill and Nigel Davies at wing and centre, though he is less well-blessed at open-side flanker, where Kingsley Jones, of Ebbw Vale, will play. This is effectively the Wales third choice, since Gwyn Jones (Cardiff) is unfit too, and this is the area that Bowring admits is crucial to his team's style of play.

Jonathan Humphreys, the captain, said his players were buoyant going into the match. "We feel we have played some of the best rugby of the championship," Humphreys said. "But for six points we would have been looking at a grand slam."

No one is more buoyant than Jonathan Davies who, at 34, will play no more for Wales after tomorrow — except in the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong next weekend and Bowring patently hopes he will turn his mind to coaching after his playing days are over. Yet Davies himself still nurtures the hope that he can throw down a final reminder to the British Isles selectors, whose party to tour South Africa will be announced on April 2.

"I'm going to enjoy the occasion and try my best in the Welsh jersey, as I always have," Davies, who will be winning his 32nd cap 12 years after his first — also against England — said. "I have been disappointed not to be picked during the five nations.

"I felt I should have come on against Ireland when things were not going so well. Maybe it is one last chance to get on that plane for South Africa."

Walton inspired 45

WALES: N R Jenkins (Pontypridd); S D Hill (Cardiff), A G Bateman (Richmond), N G Davies (Llanelli), G Thomas (Bridgend); J Davies (Cardiff), R Howley (Cardiff); C D Loader (Swansea), J M Humphreys (Cardiff, capt), D Young (Cardiff), S M Williams (Neath), G O Llewellyn (Harlequins), M J Voyle (Llanelli), K P Jones (Ebbw Vale), L S Quinnell (Richmond). Replacements: W T Proctor (Llanelli), P John (Pontypridd), D M L McIntosh (Pontypridd), J C Quinnell (Richmond), S C John (Llanelli), G R Jenkins (Swansea).

☐ Alex Evans, the former Australia assistant coach who later coached Wales in the 1995 World Cup, is to return next month as director of rugby at Cardiff. He has agreed a four-year deal with the club, with whom he spent three years as coach, helping them to the league title and, in 1994, to the cup.

Sport Wing

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